



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Glen Park in a Jazz Groove

By Jeff Kaliss

The nearby neighborhood of Glen Park is, for some Noe Valleyans, merely a somewhat quaint passageway to BART or the 280 freeway. But on Friday evenings, at least, it's worth a closer look...and listen.

Sounds of live jazz, rare nowadays in any part of San Francisco, start up at 5:30 p.m., and are heard till 'round midnight. For those who long for the jazz jams that used to grace Salonicas and Tien Fu on 24th Street in decades past, jazz in Glen Park—at two venues—is a surprising and welcome phenomenon, just minutes away.

Chuck Peterson Does the Bird

As commuters freed from their work week wander into Bird & Beckett Books & Records on Diamond near Chenery, owner Eric Whittington pushes aside the rolling shelves of tomes labeled *History* and *Social & Political Thought* to create space for a dozen folding chairs in his tiny shop.

On Friday nights, the acoustic object of his audience's attention—the Chuck Peterson Quintet—troops in right before the 5:30 starting time. (The band usually plays until 7:30 p.m.)

"They've been going steadily every Friday since last October," beams Whittington. "And they're very pleased, because they like the way it sounds in the store. They like the crowd, and they like the fact that people pay attention to them."

Tenor saxophonist and leader Chuck Peterson and fellow tenor Bill Perkins front the group, flanked by bassist Don Prell and drummer Jimmy Ryan. Guitarist Scott Foster sits perched on a bench in front of the store's resident upright piano,



Progressive jazz, such as that performed by the David Parker Quintet at the Red Rock bar, is attracting a loyal following in neighboring Glen Park. Photo by Beverly Thorp

which also sees action during jazz jams on the first Sunday of each month (Sept. 7 is the next).

The Peterson Quintet is a class act, often brighter than the weather outside and smartly familiar with pre- and post-bop

jazz standards.

As for the crowd, "half of 'em love jazz, and half of 'em love the music but don't know what it's called," says Whit-

City Approves 'Lunny House' Development

But 24th Street Project Has Been Trimmed Down and Decked Out With a Victorian Facade

By Corrie M. Anders

In the end, one of Noe Valley's most contentious recent battles over neighborhood development played out in the halls of City Planning with some give-and-take on both sides.

Not that there weren't some hard feelings; there usually are when Noe Valley activists face off with developers whose projects don't seem to fit in with the neighborhood.

But come next spring, a four-story housing and commercial complex will rise on 24th Street across from Bell Market. It will be the tallest structure on that side of the street and replace a two-story house, now vacant and rundown, that was built some 100 years ago.

The controversial project proved to be no big deal for members of the San Francisco Planning Commission. At its Aug. 21 meeting, the commission unanimously approved the project on a 4-0 vote following two hours of public testimony.

The commission okayed these major provisions:

—The new building will be a four-story structure with a Victorian-style facade, rather than the modern-industrial architecture originally proposed.

—To keep the building from appearing so large, the top story along 24th Street will be set back 15 feet from the front of

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Upper Douglass Goes to the Dogs

By Olivia Boler

It's official: the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department has approved the upper tier of Douglass Park, off 27th Street, as a dog play area (DPA). That means you and your four-legged friend can frolic untethered in the park, provided your pup plays nice—no excessive barking or hole-digging allowed.

While dogs have been romping off-leash at Upper Douglass for some time, their playing in the open field did not yet have city sanction. But on July 17, the Recreation and Park Commission voted unanimously to make what had been a *de facto* off-leash park a legitimate one.

The campaign for the dog park was launched back in January by 27th Street resident Jim Collins, owner of a black German shepherd named Darth. Following the guidelines set out in a new dog policy adopted by Rec and Park in May 2002, Collins posted an online petition and gathered nearly 200 signatures in support of his plan. The proposal asked the city to designate what most Noe Val-



Jim Collins and his best friend Darth (center) have invited two pals to help them celebrate Upper Douglass Park's new status as a dog play area, where canines can run off-leash without fear of getting a ticket.

Photo of Pamela Gerard

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Remember the War? As August merges into September, American troops still search for the fabled weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. This photo of a Dolores Park peace vigil was taken in March. Perhaps it's time for another get-together.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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LETTERS 37¢

Response to "Vicious Dogs"

Editor:

The letter "Vicious Dogs, Keep Out" in your July/August 2003 issue was simply ridiculous.

Let's review the facts. The letter writer saw a woman with a dog on a leash barking at two dogs in a van. The owner took the dog to Noe Courts Park and let it off leash.

Should the dog have been let off leash in that park? No. Is the dog "vicious" for barking at two other dogs? No. Was anyone threatened? No.

When you live in a city, you need to get along with everyone. That includes barking dogs, crying babies, smokers, loitering teenagers, noisy people, honking cars, etc. But sensationalizing stories about what you don't like is just silly and a waste of everyone's time.

Peter in Noe Valley

Don't Let This Burglar Off the Hook

Editor:

I'm asking for your readers' support in my cause to ensure that the San Francisco Police Department and the District Attorney's Office prosecute an individual I have positively identified as burglarizing my Noe Street home.

Each month I read about the increasing number of burglaries in Noe Valley. But it is a rare and unusual circumstance that someone is caught in the act, can be positively identified, and is ultimately identified by the police.

One early evening in January, I returned home from work to find a burglar leaving my property with my possessions. It was discovered later that evening that he had burglarized three of the six condominiums in my building. Since then, another neighbor has been robbed.

On Tuesday evening, June 24, while walking my dog, I passed this same individual on the street. When police responded to the scene, they identified the suspect. I have since learned that this individual made incriminating statements to police and also has an arrest record for burglary. Most frightening is that he lives among us in the neighborhood.

Unfortunately, I have been told that the District Attorney's Office is often too busy to bother with this type of case. Therefore, I am asking every Noe Valley household to write a letter to our supervisor, Bevan Dufty, as well as to the District Attorney's Office, in support of holding this person accountable for his actions.

We have lost not only our possessions; we have lost our comfort and security, and that is worth more than anything this person could have stolen from us.

Please support me and my neighbors in urging the Police Department and the District Attorney's Office to not drop this case. Letters of support regarding case #030021010 may be sent to Supervisor Bevan Dufty, 1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102; and to the Office of the District Attorney, Hall of Justice, 880 Bryant Street, Room 325, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Dean Turchi

Noe Valley resident

One more thing: I am appalled by the recent alarm surcharge that is being imposed by the city on those homeowners who have alarm systems—particularly considering I installed my alarm system as a result of being burglarized, finding and identifying the burglar myself, and then seeing no action from the city on the case. How does one protect oneself from the constant home invasions in Noe Valley when the city penalizes the victim rather than the crook?

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

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Cover to Cover: The Sequel

Bookstore Revitalized in a
New Location on Castro

By Laura McHale Holland

With a full inventory of books and a mountain of community support, Cover to Cover Booksellers has reopened in a new location—on Castro Street in the heart of Noe Valley.

In June, store partners Tracy Wynne, Mark Ezarik, and Paula Foley had announced that they were closing the book on a business that had served the neighborhood for 20 years but which was sinking deeply into debt. Their friends and neighbors, however, stepped in and wrote a different chapter for the 24th Street institution.

In less than a month, a dedicated network of concerned book lovers raised the \$200,000 needed to cover outstanding debts and to supply fresh capital. Forty patrons, including noted novelist Nick Hornby and neighborhood merchant Phoenix Books, each ponied up \$5,000 in interest-free loans to be repaid over six years. Meanwhile, the "Magnificent 40," as they are affectionately called, will enjoy a hefty discount on store merchandise.

The store has turned a corner—literally—and shop owners now are preparing for a celebration on Oct. 11 to herald the move from Cover to Cover's previous location, on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Church, to 1307 Castro Street, next-door to Walgreen's.

"It's just been a heartbreakingly wonderful event," Wynne said of the bookstore's salvation. "I thought that I would be devastated at having to close the store, but people took us by the hand and told us to hang on and that they would help. That's exactly what happened."

When the bookstore posted an announcement in its window that it was closing, Elizabeth Street resident Peter Gabel and a handful of others took matters into their own hands. An Internet



Even before Cover to Cover was fully unpacked, book lovers and curious pedestrians were scoping out the store's new location, near the busy intersection of Castro and 24th streets.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

bulletin board was set up to spread the news and solicit donations and pledges to buy books on a monthly basis to help keep the store afloat.

To date, more than 700 people have promised to purchase \$25 worth of books from Cover to Cover each month. Gabel expects that number to grow to 1,000 by the day of the grand opening.

"A neighborhood can either be a collection of separated people who are at the mercy of market forces or a group of connected people who take a strong role in creating the culture of the neighborhood," he said. "This campaign has shown that it's possible to support an idealistic venture like a bookstore in which each generation's children come to learn, to read, and grow to love books and knowledge."

The story of the new location began in July, when store partners were despairing of finding an affordable spot in the neighborhood. A friend urged Wynne to look at the storefront at 1307 Castro Street, which was being vacated by Natural Resources childbirth education center. (That store has temporarily moved to Bernal Heights, but it plans to re-open soon in the former storefront of Edward

Jones at 816 Diamond Street, near 24th Street.) Wynne hesitated. "I thought that being off 24th Street would be certain death. Mark had to practically drag me up here, but as soon as I stepped into the store, I could see the possibilities," she said while signing a receipt for 10 boxes of books delivered to the shop.

With a rent payment of "far less than half" of what they paid at their former 24th Street location, Cover to Cover's cash flow will allow for keeping the store lively and well stocked, Wynne said.

"We'll be able to start doing events again, and the layout of the store is much more intimate. It's a style that's very much compatible with what we are," she said. "Plus, Walgreen's, the Post Office, and Bank of America are all within spitting distance."

The store also may benefit from its proximity to such family-friendly mer-

chants as Terra Mia and Peek-a-Boutique, she added.

Cover to Cover is operating on a new business plan formulated by Foley, the store's newest partner, who consulted a pro bono accountant found with the help of Supervisor Bevan Dufty and the Mayor's Office of Community Development. In addition to the business plan, Foley set up a customer database (for in-house use only) and a new accounting system to allow for rapid turnaround on special orders. Also in the works are replacing a costly print newsletter with an e-mail zine, and a bicycle delivery service powered by Ezarik's 12-year-old son, Andrew.

Wynne said she hopes to sustain community support by offering things that are unique to a locally owned, independent bookseller. For example, the store can be more homey than a retail chain. In fact, the new shop has curtains sewn by Wynne's mother. It also will employ local people who are passionate and knowledgeable about books.

And, Wynne said, "Inventory for places like Barnes and Noble and Borders is bought by a central buyer somewhere back East. We really know our inventory and tailor things specifically to this community. We don't sell product; we sell books. To the larger corporations it could just as well be toothpaste."

"For us," she went on, "each book has a personality, and we take our role as booksellers very seriously. We see our position in the chain of information as a real responsibility."

For details on Cover to Cover's grand opening celebration, call 282-8080, or stop by the store at 1307 Castro Street, between Jersey and 24th streets. The shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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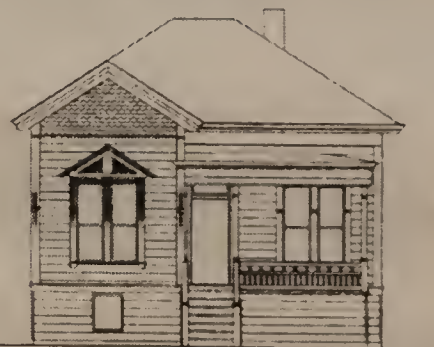
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1021 Sanchez Street
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The Noe Valley Voice is an independent news paper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$25 per year (\$15 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The Voice welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Noe Valley Voice is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Editorial Office: 415-821-3324

E-mail: editor@noevalleyvoice.com

Web Site: www.noevalleyvoice.com

Distribution: Call Misba at 415-752-1726

Display Advertising:

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Display Advertising Deadline for the
October Issue: Sept. 12, 2003

Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: Sept. 15, 2003

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Dogs Catch a Break At Upper Douglass

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ieyans call Upper Douglass Park a safe haven for dogs to roam free. It also defined Upper Douglass as a "shared-use" park. Shared-use means anybody can use the park—to play softball, have a picnic, practice tai chi, or let their dog play with other dogs off-leash.

Over the winter and spring, Collins and his allies attended numerous meetings of Rec and Park's Dog Advisory Committee. When the lobbying efforts finally paid off this summer, Collins felt as if a weight had been lifted from his shoulders. "It was a real feeling of satisfaction, because we worked so long and so hard to get this accomplished."

"Thank You's" Paved the Way

Though friends warned Collins that he'd meet with a lot of resistance and red tape at City Hall, he describes his experience as heartening.

"I told [my friends], why can't we do this by the book? These are just people trying to do their jobs," says Collins. "I went into it with a non-adversarial outlook. I said 'thank you' a lot. I'm amazed how much saying 'thank you' can get you."

Located at the corner of Douglass and 27th streets, Upper Douglass Park sits one steep block up from lower Douglass Park (also known as Douglass Playground), a fenced-in park and children's play area off 26th Street. Dogs are not permitted in this lower park. Soft grass, picnic tables, swing sets, and public restrooms make Douglass Playground a popular spot for kids' birthday parties and family gatherings.

A Little Rough Around the Edges

In contrast, Upper Douglass is a bit raw. The baseball diamond is often muddy in spots, and there are no bathrooms or tables. Cliffs and eucalyptus trees surround the park to the north, south, and west. For years, a trail above the cliffs had been a designated off-leash dog run, though human owners were often scared off by signs warning against the dangers of falling. But the park's main asset, from a canine's perspective, is that it has a big open field, covered with thick green grass.

According to Rec and Park spokesperson Becky Ballinger, now that Upper Douglass is a dog play area, some garbage cans may be added, but the basic field maintenance will not change. Rec and Park will, however, post signs reminding people to clean up after their dogs and keep them from digging up the turf.

Along with Alamo Square and Crocker Amazon Park, Upper Douglass Park is one of the first dog play areas to be allowed under the city's new dog policy, she notes. Rec and Park is also looking into designating off-leash trails in McLaren Park, Glen Canyon Park, and Stern Grove. Ballinger says that McLaren's size—over 300 acres—would attract dog owners on the weekends, who would make use of smaller, neighborhood parks like Upper Douglass on the weekdays.

A Good Place for Exercise

Noe Valley resident David Shaber has been coming to Upper Douglass Park with his mixed hound dog Cassie for six years. Like many dog owners who frequent the park, he is delighted about its new official status as a dog play area.

"So many people have dogs and no place to exercise them," Shaber says. "You need an open space that's flat like Upper Douglass for the elderly and disabled."

He worries, though, that when word gets out, the park will become overrun with users.

Ballinger echoes this concern, saying there is limited open space in San Francisco for both dogs and people, and that District 8 has the highest dog population in the city.

"If there's only one place for dogs to go in a neighborhood, it will become heavily used and become a potential maintenance problem because of the distress to the area," she says.

But other parks either don't allow dogs off-leash or have small, cramped dog runs. Linda Hayes, who lives near Church Street, used to take her Newfoundland pup to Christopher Park in Diamond Heights, but she stopped after a patrolwoman admonished her to put her dog on a leash. Now they go to Upper Douglass instead.

Professional dog walker Deborah Deegan also likes the 27th Street park. "Upper Douglass is great because the dogs have the space to socialize and play."

In the past, she escorted some of her clients' pets to the fenced-in dog run at

Upper Noe Recreation Center on 30th Street. "But it's too narrow and enclosed," she says.

Dogs Better-Behaved Than People

Deegan thinks things at Upper Douglass have improved since the park "went to the dogs." She recalls seeing young men barbecuing on their hibachis in the park and threatening to break the necks of some people's pets. Now she sees more families with dogs and children.

Collins echoes her sentiments. He has lived a half-block from Upper Douglass since 1986, and recalls past troubles with homeless encampments and drug and alcohol use in the park. Some mornings, he would find used needles and burned-out campfires. "Late at night, you'd hear yelling and screaming, although the park is technically closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.," Collins says. "You'd see graffiti—recognizable gang tags—on the maintenance building. Since the park became popular with dog owners, that kind of thing has stopped."

DPA's Not Without Controversy

Not everyone, however, is happy about the park's new designation. Andrea O'Leary, who lives "on a hillside above Noe Valley," has been vocal in her opposition to making Upper Douglass an off-leash park. She had hoped the park would be kept primarily as a sports field, and thinks Rec and Park used the park's poor drainage as an excuse not to do that.

"I'm not saying don't give the dogs dog runs," she says. "Just don't give them the heart and soul of the property. It's pathetic that we put children behind fences and let dogs run free."

O'Leary also thinks calling the park "shared-use" is ridiculous. "The only people who are going to share the park are the dog owners," she says.

Collins disputes this claim. "Anyone

Doggie Do's and Don'ts

The San Francisco Dog Owners Group (SFDog) offers these tips for pet owners who wish to bring their dogs to the park.

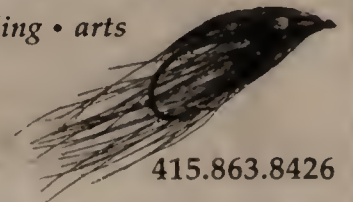
- Carry a leash.
- Pick up and dispose of dog waste.
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can use the park. Anyone is welcome. Dog owners will prove to people that they are good neighbors, and that dogs are good neighbors too."

Collins says his next plan is to set up a fund through Friends of Recreation & Parks that will raise money to buy benches and a drinking fountain for Upper Douglass Park. For more information, e-mail jamescollins@mac.com.

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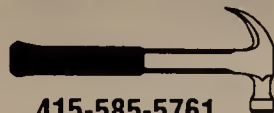


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Jazz Finds a Home In Glen Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tington. "But they're also in here because it's a nice little community gathering."

In greeting his customers, who range in age from toddlers-in-tow to veterans of the swing era, Whittington proves that he's as familiar with his community as he is with his diverse stock of new and used books and bins of long-playing records, many of them showcasing the same sort of jazz heard during in-store performances.

"I've been a jazz fan since high school," Whittington testifies. "I'm from a Navy family, and when I was living in Japan, I got a lot of records out of the base library and went to hear [legendary pianist] Thelonious Monk in Tokyo."

Whittington worked at Ed Hunolt's Berkeley Book Store and at the Green Apple bookstore on Clement Street before opening Bird & Beckett in May of 1999. Among the earliest of his customers was Glen Park resident Mary Goode, who seeded Whittington's swing and bop inventory with the record collection belonging to her late husband John Markham, a jazz professional and a friend of Peterson.

Peterson, a retired big band and pit orchestra musician himself, was among those devoted to playing at the bookstore's occasional jazz jams in its first couple of years, although there was little money to be made.

"He said he could either play golf, or he could subsidize his playing jazz for me," reports Whittington, "and he'd rather play jazz."

When he decided to go weekly with the



Bird & Beckett, the hip little bookstore in Glen Park, is hosting jazz performed weekly by the Chuck Peterson Quintet. Photos by Beverly Thorp

jazz stage, Whittington also committed to giving the musicians a third of the proceeds of books and records sold during their gigs. The musicians' pay is bolstered by tips collected in a jar on the counter. Whittington makes his jazz nights more comfortable for music fans, and more affordable for him, by selling water, wine, and bottles of soda.

Coltrane the Muse at Red Rock

Liquor is the sole source of income at the Red Rock bar, kitty-corner from the bookstore at 699 Chenery Street (at Diamond), but the suave and friendly service of bartenders Mark Pagsoligan and Betty Coleman is enhanced on Friday nights by the sophisticated sounds of the David Parker Quintet.

The music begins, literally right inside the bar's Chenery Street door, at 9 o'clock, an hour and a half after it concludes at Bird & Beckett. Parker, who plays bass, is positioned just off the northern end of the long, well-polished deco bar top, with trumpeter Mike Pitre, saxman Jerry Logas, keyboardist Albert Yamanoha, and drummer Roy Bailey.

Parker's songbook is somewhat more modern than Peterson's, including progressive jazz compositions by the likes of John Coltrane and Thelonious Monk. The venue itself is a striking contrast to the funky potpourri of the bookstore, and is a reflection of the taste of owner Ric López and his Modernpast furnishings store, a half block up Chenery.

Every detail of Red Rock, from the sof-

fits above the back bar to the small cocktail tables positioned in front of the long banquette along the western wall, was carefully designed with a "timeless" touch by López, who has also worked as a fashion photographer.

"I think jazz itself is very timeless," offers López, who inherited a love of the music from his father while growing up in the nearby Sunnyside neighborhood, where he now owns his own home and studio.

López found his inspiration for Red Rock in the tiny lounges doubling as jazz hot spots that he encountered during residencies in Paris and Milan. After returning to the U.S. and opening Modernpast three years ago, he discovered the down-at-the-heel New Lodge bar, which occupied the corner of Chenery and Diamond. He was delighted when he got the opportunity to acquire and refurbish the place.

When he first opened Red Rock a year ago, named for the Glen Park hill that rises north towards Diamond Heights, he took some of the New Lodge regulars by surprise. "They walked in, and they were, 'Oh, my God, where am I?'" he recalls with a chuckle. "So they just went home; changed their shirts, and came back."

Current clientele (which by law must be of drinking age) are inspired to dress in style. They've included designer Christiane Parker, who introduced López to her jazz-playing husband and created the opportunity for the musical Friday nights, which began last January.

As at Bird & Beckett, the musicians

share in the establishment's proceeds and welcome tips, and are more than grateful for the opportunity to keep their jazz chops fresh; they all have day jobs as public school teachers.

López has taken a more aggressive approach to promoting and expanding his operations than has Whittington. Last month, he issued a press release, inviting the media to come look at and listen to a "Red Rock Friday." He also inaugurated a Wednesdays blues night, hosted by guitarist and singer P.A. Slim (who performs for Sunday brunches at Alcatrazes restaurant on 24th Street). This fall, López will open a sushi restaurant, which he'll "design from top to bottom, including the clothes," at the location of a former wine shop, across the street from Modernpast on Chenery.

But the prime directive subscribed to by both Whittington and López is serving the locals.

"Glen Park is a very special place," López points out, "and it has been, through all the chaos when the freeway and BART came in [in the 1960s and '70s]. Big chains haven't come here. It's a village, and in Glen Park Village, you really want to be neighborly."

"With some people working 9 to 9, they want to get off work and come relax somewhere," he continues. "Providing live music makes them feel they can get out and find real things, not just their home entertainment system." □



Ric López, owner of Red Rock lounge, has created a stylish art deco environment in which to relax and hear live jazz and blues.

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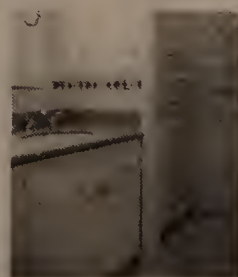
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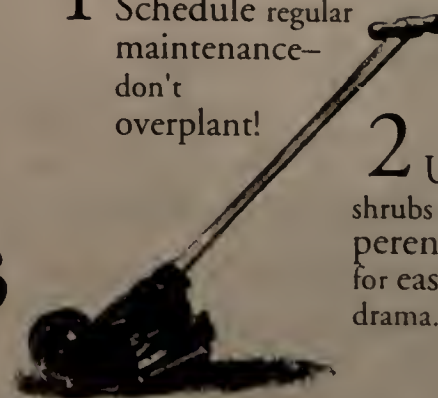
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A Victorian Face For 'Lunny House'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the building. It will also be set back another 15 feet at the rear, as a concession to residents living on Jersey Street.

—Two commercial spaces of 1,200 feet each, instead of one big commercial space, will be required. One storefront will be located on the ground floor of 24th Street, and the second at the rear of the building.

—The six residential units on the upper floors will house seniors aged 62 and older. Although built as condominiums, the units will be used as apartments with market-rate rents, the developers say.

—Because the area has good public transit—the 48 bus runs right by the door—the senior residents will not be permitted to own cars, and the building will not have a parking garage.

Top Floor Carved Up, But Still There

The neighborhood fight erupted after a team of developers unveiled plans in the spring for the site. The developers—Jeremiah Cullinane, Denis Cullinane, and Eileen Long—last year purchased the property at 3953 24th Street for \$700,000, from the estate of Robert and Evelyn Lunny.

Located between two-story neighbors on either side—Tien Fu Restaurant and Colorcrane Arts—the boarded-up house had been an eyesore for some time on Noe Valley's busiest commercial corridor.

The initial proposal to replace the Lunny House called for four luxury condominiums, an underground garage, and two commercial spaces. Merchants and nearby residents challenged the plan, contending that additional cars would add to 24th Street's notorious congestion and the four-story structure was far too mammoth for the block, with mostly two- and three-story buildings.

During numerous neighborhood meetings and at last month's Planning Commission hearing, residents demanded that the top floor be lopped off. But the developers warned that their project wouldn't be economically viable if they had to eliminate the top story. That argument carried weight with the commission.



The new complex going up at 3953 24th Street will be the tallest building on the south side of the block. However, to appease Noe Valley residents and merchants, the architect has added bay windows and other Victorian features, and reduced the bulk of the top story.

Sketch Courtesy of Zone Design of Novato

"I think it all came down to removing the top floor," said city planner Dan Sirois. "The commission didn't want to do that.... We felt we wouldn't get the senior housing out of the project."

Local merchants fretted over the lack of parking on 24th Street. But they compromised on the parking issue in favor of having smaller commercial spaces. They had worried that a single commercial space would either attract large chain stores that tend to undercut small merchants or traffic-generating office uses.

"Everyone had to give up something," said Carol Yenne, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association and owner of Small Frys, a children's clothing store on 24th Street.

"We gave up parking. The developers gave up half of a floor with setbacks. It was a compromise everywhere. It shows we can work together," Yenne said.

Architecture Harkens Back to 1910

Consider the building's exterior. The contemporary design originally proposed could have created an architectural clash with the other Victorian and Edwardian-style buildings along the block. And opponents contended that it would have drawn even more negative attention to the considerable height of the building.

The revised Victorian-style façade should blend in easily with the street's architectural character, says Lu Blazej, a consultant representing the developers.

Yvonne Borg lives on Jersey Street, directly behind the Lunny House. Because her home is on a downslope from 24th Street, the new structure will loom over the small Victorian she has owned since 1972.

"We all lost," Borg said, after speaking at the public hearing against the project. "We did the best we could."

Undercurrent of Tension

Blazej responds that the real estate entrepreneurs "worked hard to satisfy the concerns" of residents and merchants. He said the developers made numerous changes over the course of five months, and "after all was said and done, I think everyone was satisfied."

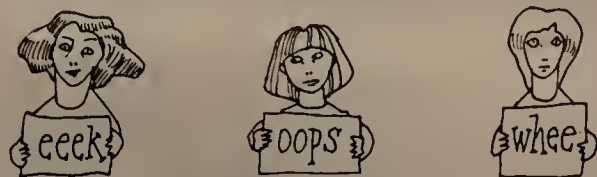
Still, there was an undercurrent of tension as the Planning Commission got ready to consider the matter.

In a letter to commissioners outlining the concerns of Friends of Noe Valley, group president Jeannene Przyblyski took note of the many community meetings held with developers to resolve their differences.

"In our experience, this was one of the most unsatisfactory and unproductive examples of the public process in which we have been involved," Przyblyski wrote.

That prompted building owner Long, a sales agent with B.J. Droubi Real Estate, to fire off a chilly retort. "...We are left feeling very hurt and insulted" because "we left no stone unturned to work with the associations."

What comes next depends on the mood of neighborhood activists. They could appeal the Planning Commission's decision to the Board of Supervisors. Absent that, the developers say construction is set to start early next year.



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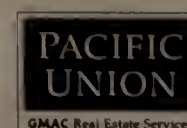
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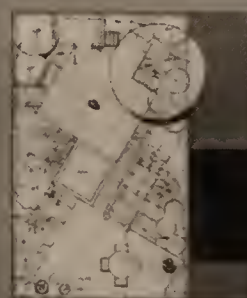


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The Cost of Living in Noe

Rents Leveling Off

By Corrie M. Anders

Apartment rents in Noe Valley are still falling, but they now appear to be floating down under a parachute.

That's the latest word from Rent Tech, a listing service that keeps track of the city's apartment prices.

During the second quarter of this year, from April through June, landlords asked new tenants to pay an average of \$2,536 for a three-bedroom rental. That's 4.8 percent less than the \$2,665 asked a year earlier. Rents for two-bedroom apartments declined 4 percent to an average of \$2,098, about \$90 less than in the same quarter of 2002, according to Rent Tech.

Overall, with studios and one-bedrooms included in the mix, second-quarter rents were 5.8 percent cheaper than

one year ago. However, that's a slow-down from the first three months of 2003, when average rents dropped 7.9 percent.

The bottoming-out trend has been confirmed by at least one local rental property manager. "The market is stabilizing," says Joel Panzer, president of Real Management Company on Castro Street. Apartments are being rented more quickly, landlords are less likely to negotiate over price, and owners are giving fewer concessions to new tenants.

For example, Panzer says, he is "making concessions more to in-place tenants who are good tenants and are paying close to market rents." Those renters typically get one month's free rent when they renew their lease, he says.

In the wake of the dot-com bust, renters who would have preferred their own space in studios or one-bedroom apartments have opted to share larger units.



With the average cost of a Noe Valley home approaching \$1 million, don't ask what these Victorian gems on Vicksburg Street might command.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales		Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
July 03	9	\$615,000	\$1,675,000	\$992,556	47	101%
June 03	17	\$541,000	\$1,980,000	\$891,706	35	102%
May 03	14	\$615,000	\$1,720,000	\$986,464	33	103%
July 02	15	\$525,000	\$1,375,000	\$865,267	26	102%
Condominiums						
July 03	5	\$340,000	\$925,000	\$563,200	10	109%
June 03	6	\$270,000	\$789,000	\$585,667	25	103%
May 03	3	\$645,000	\$900,000	\$793,333	47	102%
July 02	5	\$340,000	\$925,000	\$563,200	10	109%
2 to 4 unit buildings						
July 03	1	\$1,225,000	\$1,225,000	\$1,225,000	26	107%
June 03	5	\$825,000	\$1,050,000	\$921,000	104	98%
May 03	6	\$549,000	\$1,720,000	\$1,060,333	48	99%
July 02	8	\$660,000	\$1,420,000	\$1,046,875	64	101%
5+ unit buildings						
July 03	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 03	0	—	—	—	—	—
May 03	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 02	0	—	—	—	—	—

*Information provided to the Noe Valley Voice courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on all Noe Valley home sales (escrow closings) recorded during the month. "Noe Valley" for the purposes of this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

NTV 9/03

That has helped fill three- and four-bedroom units in Noe Valley—and their rents have held up better than those for smaller apartments, says Panzer.

Indeed, Rent Tech's data shows that second-quarter rents for a studio fell 7.6 percent, while a one-bedroom unit dropped 6.7 percent from a year ago.

"For Sale" Signs Scarce

House prices, however, represent the polar opposite of rents in Noe Valley. In July, buyers paid an average of just under \$1 million to buy a Noe Valley home. And they paid almost that much—nearly \$900,000—in June.

Only nine single-family homes sold in July, the lowest monthly total since February. However, buyers consistently paid above the sellers' asking price. That shows that the modest number of sales was caused by a shortage of homes rather than a lack of buyers, says Randall Kostick, 24th Street office manager for Zephyr Real Estate. His company supplies monthly real estate data to the Voice.

July's condominium tally (five sold) also indicates a lack of available homes, as buyers paid 9 percent over asking price. The 9 percent premium was the highest since March.

"It'd be nice if we had more properties for sale," says Kostick, speaking from the buyer's perspective.

The most recent data also proves that Noe Valley, like it or not, remains one of San Francisco's more exclusive communities. Five homes sold for \$1 million or higher during June and July.

A brand-new home in the 700 block of Duncan Street, featuring a commanding view of downtown, was the most expensive home sold in June. Buyers paid \$1,982,000 for the home, which has five bedrooms and three-and-one-half baths.

If you're wondering about the least expensive home sold in Noe Valley during June and July, look in the 1400 block of Diamond Street. That's where buyers purchased a two-bedroom, one-bath house for \$541,000.

Noe Valley Rents*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (April-June 2003)	Average Rents a Year Ago (April-June 2002)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Studio	\$ 1,028 / mo.	\$ 1,112 / mo.	-7.6%
1 bedroom	1,456 / mo.	1,561 / mo.	-6.7%
2 bedrooms	2,098 / mo.	2,185 / mo.	-4.0%
3 or more bedrooms	2,536 / mo.	2,665 / mo.	-4.8%

*Source: Rent Tech, Inc. (www.renttech.com)

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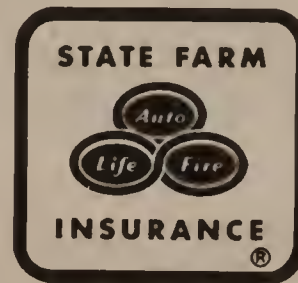
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City Nips a Little off the Dog Run to Please Ball Players

By Liz Highleyman

A year after it started, planning for the renovation of Upper Noe Recreation Center is finally nearing completion. Recreation and Park Department project director Keith Kawamura presented the latest designs at an Aug. 20 meeting, the fourth held to gather input from the neighborhood.

Among the planned improvements to the 1957 park—bordered by Sanchez, Day, Church, and 30th streets—are upgrades to make the existing buildings more seismically sound and bring them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, new landscaping, a revamped children's play area, and an ex-

panded dog run.

As expected, the dog area elicited the most attention from the 30 residents (and one dog) attending the meeting. To replace the park's current 10,000-square-foot dog run—consisting of a narrow L-shaped strip—plans call for a rectangular dog play area of nearly 12,000 square feet at the Church Street end of the park. Phase 1 would include about 7,800 square feet, with an additional 4,000 square feet to be added later during Phase 2.

At earlier meetings, residents locked horns over how much space the dog run should occupy, with some arguing that the dog area should not expand at the expense of the ball field. To address this, the latest modification to the plan reduces the 30th Street dog run entrance area from 15 to 10 feet wide, allowing for more room for ball fans along the field's first-base line.

With the ball field, tennis and basketball courts, and children's play area retaining their present dimensions, the extra dog space will come mostly from currently unused space along the park's Day Street edge and behind buildings on Church Street. While some residents continued to express concern about a couple

of feet here or a misplaced tree there, most seemed fairly pleased with the new layout.

"Rec and Park is trying to meet everyone's needs," emphasized Kawamura, "but we only have so much space."

With the dog issue out of the way, more than half the meeting attendees exited en masse, leaving architects Paul Travis and Scott Burbank to explain the building renovations and other site modifications to the dozen or so people remaining.

The children's play area—the subject of extensive discussion at meeting three—will gain a set of Kompan modular wooden play structures and a new safety surface to replace the existing sand. The new plan, noted Burbank, incorporates the neighborhood's "loud and clear" demands for stroller parking and seating, with separate play areas for preschool and older children.

But what about the 'tweens? At the third meeting, and again this time around, parents representing a group called NoeSk8s asked planners to consider turning the mostly unused patio on Sanchez Street into a skateboarding area. The skateboard fans said they weren't asking for anything fancy—just a simple ramp. The city plan-

ners promised to explore the request, and also noted that a skateboard task force is working on the issue of skating facilities citywide. One possible solution: a mobile structure that rotates from park to park.

Addressing another big neighborhood concern, Burbank clarified that while the driveway for maintenance vehicles would be moved, no new curb cuts would be made—so no parking spaces would be lost.

Kawamura hopes to receive Rec and Park approval of the conceptual plans in October or November, to be followed by at least a yearlong design and bidding process.

If all goes well, actual construction could begin in the spring of 2005 and take a year to a year-and-a-half to complete.

The Upper Noe renovations are funded by a March 2000 ballot measure, which approved a \$110 million bond and Open Space funds to upgrade parks throughout the city. Rec and Park will hold four community workshops in September to update San Franciscans on the capital improvement program. The meeting for districts 7, 11, and 8—which includes Noe Valley and Glen Park—will take place Sept. 22 at 6 p.m., at the Pilgrim Community Center at 446 Randolph Street. □

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Kindest regards, Lauren, Tats, Akio and Masao Kawasaki

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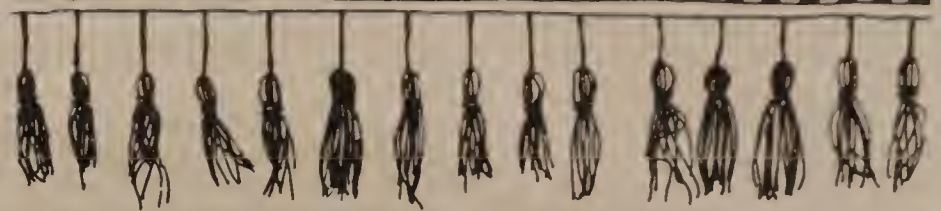
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a roundup of crimes and other reported incidents in Noe Valley, which in this survey is defined as the area bounded by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside police stations during the months of June and July, 2003.

Aggravated Assault with Weapon: 11:07 a.m. on June 22 in the 300 block of Vicksburg Street

Police responded to a report of two men fighting in the 300 block of Vicksburg Street. The incident occurred after one of the men, a resident, who had been cleaning up in front of his home, came across a man sleeping in his driveway next to a shopping cart full of bottles. When the resident asked the man to leave, the man became angry and began yelling at him in Spanish and swinging a stick at him. The resident did not understand what he was saying.

The suspect had begun pushing his cart toward 24th Street when the resident's wife returned home in her vehicle. According to the report, the man with the cart continued to yell at the resident and then at his wife and lobbed a bottle at the couple. It landed at their feet and shattered, but no one was injured.

As the suspect appeared to reach for another bottle, the resident ran up and grabbed him to prevent him from throwing it. A brief struggle ensued, toppling the shopping cart and broken bottles into the street, a mess that was later cleaned up by the Department of Public Works.

Police arrested a 38-year-old man, a transient, in the incident.

Burglary by Forceable Entry: Between 11 p.m. May 31 and 7 a.m. June 2 in the 700 block of Diamond Street

Someone kicked in a piece of plywood that was being used as a door at a construction job in the basement of a church at Diamond and Elizabeth streets. The intruder or intruders removed a Sawzall, chopsaw, laser, grinder, chainsaw, concrete saw, skill saw, and drill from inside a toolbox. The contractor was not sure whether the toolbox had been locked. The items were valued at \$3,550. Police have no suspects.

Burglary of Apartment House: Between 8:30 p.m. on June 20 and 2 a.m. on June 21 in the 300 block of 27th Street

Police believe that someone crawled through a front window of an apartment in the 300 block of 27th Street and stole two laptop computers, a pager, a Tag

Heuer watch, a Swiss Army watch, a cell phone, about 50 DVDs, a stereo receiver, three pearl necklaces, a ring, a silver bracelet, a silver and turquoise bracelet, two gold wedding bands, and a black and purple backpack. The value of the jewelry is still being determined, but the loss of the other items was estimated at more than \$7,000.

The couple who live in the apartment told police they left their home with a guest around 8:30 p.m. on June 20 and returned hours later to find the window next to the front door slightly open, the front door shut but unlocked, and the back door fully open. The couple owned all of the stolen items except the backpack, which belonged to their guest.

The residents told police that two weeks earlier they had been instructed by their landlord to secure their valuables while a painting crew worked in their apartment.

No forced entry was observed, and police believe the thief or thieves exited through the front door.

Theft in Shoe Store: Noon on June 28 in the 3900 block of 24th Street

A young woman was trying on shoes in a store in the 3900 block of 24th Street and left her purse unattended while she walked to the back of the shop for a few moments. Before she turned her back to look at a few items, she noticed a couple enter the store. When she turned around again, she saw the pair leaving. Suspicious, she looked for her purse and found it still on the floor.

However, when she went to the register to pay for her shoes, she discovered that her wallet—which she had just used next door and remembered replacing in her purse—was missing.

The black leather Anne Klein wallet, itself valued at \$30, contained three credit cards, a debit card, and a San Francisco State University I.D.

The case has been referred to the fraud unit.

Burglary of Building Under Construction: Between 6 p.m. July 18 and 7:30 a.m. July 20 in the 3900 block of 23rd Street

Construction tools valued at \$10,000 were reported stolen from a home under construction on 23rd Street during the weekend of July 18 to 20. The owner of the home told police that someone had removed the wooden boards he had been using to cover the garage area, entered the building, and made off with several expensive tools.

Burglary of Residence Under Construction: Between 6 p.m. May 21 and 1 p.m. June 13 in the 300 block of Day Street

A man who lives in the 300 block of Day Street reported that while he was on vacation from May 21 to June 13 a laptop computer was stolen from his office. He also told police that renovations were being done during his absence and that the contractor's workers had access to his

residence. The contractor could shed no light on the incident. The man's G4 Macintosh was valued at \$3,500. Nothing else was taken from the home, and the residence was otherwise undisturbed.

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism to Vehicle: 2:38 p.m. July 21 at Day and Sanchez streets

A local woman was sitting in a park at 30th and Sanchez streets when she spotted two youths squatting by the right rear tire of her YMCA van. The suspects fled as she approached, and she found that the tire had been slashed and was deflating. The suspects were described as juveniles.

Vehicle Tampering: 11:46 p.m. June 12 at Valley and Noe streets

A couple reported a man attempting to gain entry to a U.S. mail truck shortly before noon on June 12.

The woman told police that she had noticed a man holding a large black duffel bag on his right shoulder and attempting to open the passenger door of the truck. He then walked around to the back of the truck and tried a handle there. Apparently unsuccessful in both attempts, he proceeded to the driver side.

The woman, who was watching from inside her home, yelled for her husband as she watched the suspect return to the passenger side. He must have gained entry there, she told police, for she could see his feet dangling out the door. The woman's husband, at her urging, walked outside and asked the suspect what he was doing.

At that, the suspect ran toward a gray, four-door Honda that was double-parked nearby with the driver-side door open. He drove off westbound on Valley Street.

There was no damage to the truck, and when the mail carrier returned, he said it did not appear that anything was missing.

Stolen Vehicles

Between 2 p.m. June 19 and 10 a.m. June 20, a blue 1985 Dodge Ram pickup disappeared from where it was parked in the 3900 block of 23rd Street.

Sometime between 6 p.m. July 20 and 8 a.m. July 21, someone stole a maroon 2002 Honda Civic four-door from where it was parked at Church and 27th streets.

The Voice thanks Mission Station Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo and Ingleside Police Officer Mike Smith for providing the incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Suzanne Herel.

Your Links to the SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in the Mission and Ingleside police districts. The next meeting at Mission Station will be Tuesday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m., at 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. The next Ingleside meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue.

Meanwhile, those who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street can report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mailing Captain Greg Corrales at gregory_corrales@ci.sf.ca.us. (To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call the non-traceable hotline at 558-5452.)

Residents and merchants in "outer" Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez—can contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing Captain Kevin Dillon at kevin_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. (Cell phone users, dial 553-8090.) To talk to San Francisco police about a non-emergency situation, call 553-0123.

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This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

The unseasonably warm winds of summer brought us a new family—all the way from New York City. **Chris Smith** and his wife **Sheri Matteo** settled into a flat on Vicksburg Street with their 2½-year-old daughter **Micaela**, newborn son **Anderson** (born June 10), and their terrier mix **Desdemona**.

Smith had already been commuting from New York since March, when he was hired as the new artistic director for San Francisco's award-winning **Magic Theatre**. Through his work as program director for the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Project, Smith became acquainted with **Larry Eilenberg**, the Magic's outgoing artistic director. They collaborated on new theater works that explored the worlds of science and technology. And Smith's project helped support Science on Stage, a Magic Theatre reading series.

"One of the delightful things I get to do in my new guise at the Magic is inherit Science on Stage, which is held at the Exploratorium. We stage plays that are germane insofar as they deal with science and technology. And we have a talkback session with the playwright and somebody affiliated with the Exploratorium who has expertise in the areas of science the play touches upon.

"As part of the series, we'll be doing a reading on Wednesday, Sept. 24, of a play written by my fellow Noe Valley resident and colleague **Carey Perloff**. She's the artistic director of ACT [American Conservatory Theater]. Her play is called *Lu-*

minescence Dating, and it concerns some archaeologists," Smith notes.

On the home front, Smith and Matteo have their hands full right now taking care of two very young children—finding day care and babysitters and getting their new lives in order. "It's a huge, huge transition, and most of our family and friends are back East. However, we're in an incredible place. Noe Valley has had one of the most gorgeous Augusts I can ever imagine. It has tremendous family appeal, wonderful little shops along 24th Street. That makes the whole thing easier," Smith observes. "And, hey, for New Yorkers to look out our window and see San Francisco lying before us all the way to the East Bay is a real treat."

Once the children are a little bit older, Matteo plans to return to her career as a midwife. "A midwife's going to find a job anywhere, but it's appealing to come to California, which is renowned for its openness to a holistic approach to women's health," Smith says.

One cross-country transition that didn't work out so well was **John Lehrack's** move from San Francisco to Miami. He left here on June 5, to be the musical director of Miami Children's Theatre, only to return six weeks later saying, "It's the worst job I ever had in my life." He has already resumed his position as musical director of San Francisco's Hawaiian chorus **Na Leo Nahenahe**. Rehearsals are on Monday nights at Bethany Church on Sanchez Street, and Lehrack says new members can join anytime.

As for the Bethany Theatre Project (which produced **Sondheim's Forum** last spring), Lehrack plans to hold auditions for the next production in October or November, with the show opening early in 2004. That is, if he can find funding and new rehearsal and performance space.



Micaela, 2½, shows baby brother Anderson how to win the hearts of West Coast audiences. Their dad, Chris Smith (right), and mom Sheri Matteo moved the family from New York to San Francisco so Chris could devote fulltime to his job as artistic director of the Magic Theatre.

He'll welcome calls and e-mails from readers with suggestions at 701-7011 or johnlehrack@earthlink.net.

As for future moves, he says, "I missed the city greatly and don't see myself leaving again anytime soon, if ever!"

On July 20, when Lehrack was saying goodbye to Miami, the **Ashman Family** and friends were bidding a fond farewell to 182 Grand View, the home that had been in the family since 1937.

Carl Ashman and his wife **Helen** were German colonists living in the Ukraine who migrated to Canada in 1902, and the United States not long thereafter. Carl, a carpenter, bought the lot on Grand View and 21st streets for \$400 in 1937. With an FHA loan and less than \$4,000 in materials, he built a three-story home, where the couple nurtured their eight children: **Bill, Frieda, Arthur, Elmer, Edith, Klara, Louise, and Clarence**. (The family was featured in the February 1995 issue of the *Voice* when three of the siblings celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries.)

Louise and her husband **Ralph Chelifoux** bought the home from Carl and Helen in 1968 and lived there until July, when they moved to a retirement community in Kennewick, Wash., to be near Clarence ("Mike") and his wife **Doris**.

None of Louise's three remaining siblings (Edith, Klara, or Clarence) was prepared to assume ownership of the home, nor were any of their heirs.

"It's sad. We've had so many good times there," says Klara, who lives in Ignacio in Marin County. "It's hard knowing you won't be driving up that way and seeing that wonderful, unobstructed view at the end of 21st Street. And the backyard has stones that came from the cobblestones on Market Street. My dad carried them down the hill one by one when they were digging up the street and nobody wanted them," she recalls.

As for Ralph and Louise's move to Washington state, Klara says, "They're doing very well. Mike lives right around the corner. Their furniture was a week late, so it's a good thing they had some place to stay."

Klara says the Grand View home will be put on the market as soon her nephew has a chance to fix it up. She doesn't know what the asking price will be.

Nesting happily in her longtime family home is **Mary Teahan-Duffy**. She and her husband **Patrick Duffy** are awaiting the arrival of a new generation, to be raised in the house on 23rd Street where

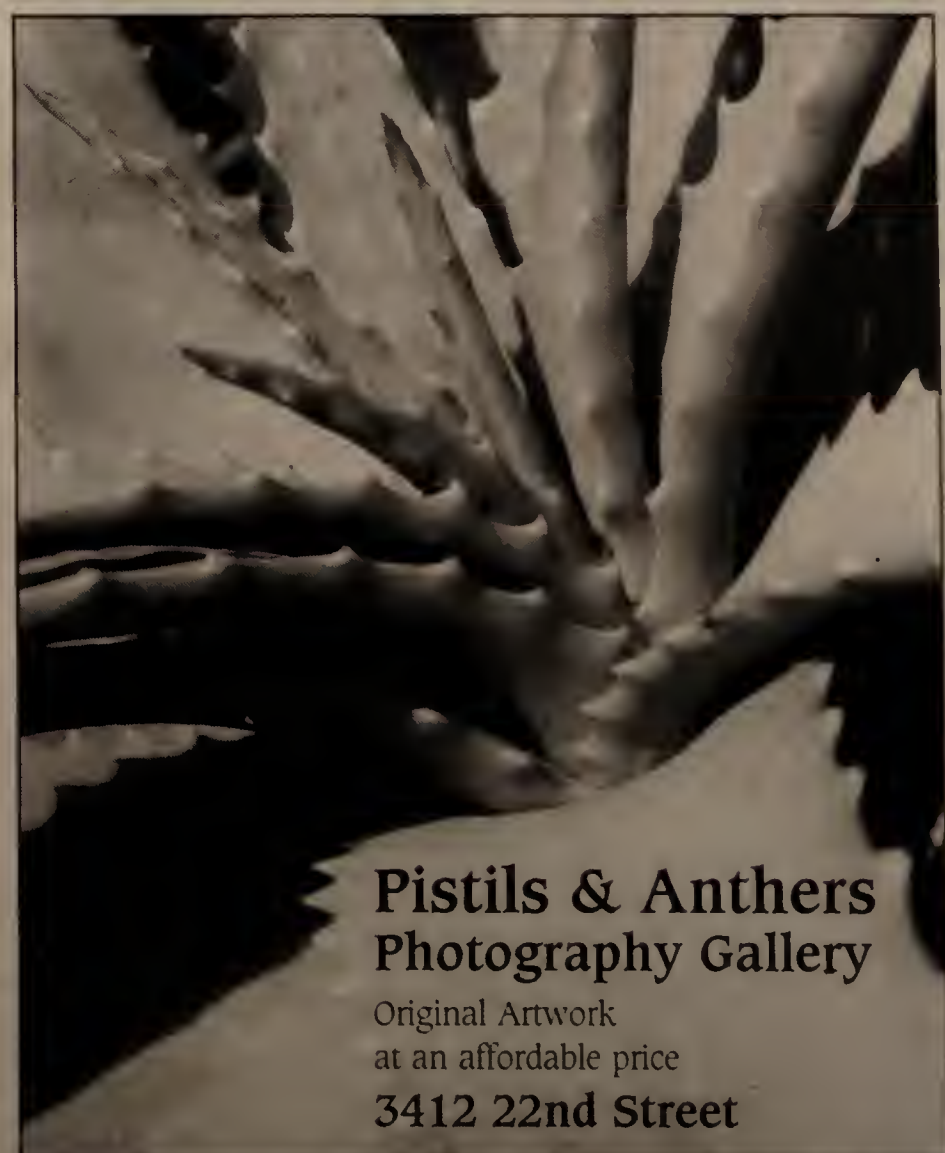
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This 'n' That

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both she and her mother Patsy were born. The newcomer's name will be **Shane Patrick**. He's due to be born on Dec. 5.

The expectant parents were married in 1997, only two months after they'd met. "It was just so easy compared to any other relationship I'd ever had. I felt so loved by him," says Mary. "It was funny because my dad wasn't worried at all when he met him, and my dad never liked anyone I went out with. But when Patrick went over to ask for my hand in marriage, my dad was just so excited." (Mary's mother was not involved because she died when Mary was a child.)

Starting a family, however, was not so easy. After many failed attempts, they consulted a fertility doctor, and Mary found out she was pregnant on March 28. The following week, however, she had symptoms that made the couple believe they were going to lose the baby. They both came home early from work. She was in the kitchen when Patrick came up to her and whispered, "There's a stork on our fence. Run! And get the camera!"

When Mary stepped outside, she saw a great blue heron. "I knew it was a sign, and everything would work out. He stayed there for about five minutes and then flew to a tree nearby and rested. He then flew away. We were in awe over the whole experience," says Mary.

"We saw this beautiful bird once before when we got engaged in Golden Gate Park's Arboretum," she continues. "Maybe it's the same one. It sure seems to bring us luck. Maybe it was my mother bringing me a gift from heaven, knowing my dream was to become a mother so I can once again feel the bond between mother and child."

(According to **John Kelly**, research director at Audubon Canyon Ranch, a great blue heron alighting on a Noe Valley branch is interesting from a human perspective, but not noteworthy from an ornithological perspective. The herons nest at Stowe Lake and Lake Merced, he says. However, if a blue heron takes up permanent residence in Noe Valley, he'd like to know about it.)

Perhaps one day, the Duffys will go out to dinner for their 62nd wedding anniversary, just like **Florence** and **Leo Holub** did on July 3. The Holubs moved to their 21st Street home in 1957—with three boys in tow. Florence has been writing a column, "Florence's Family Album," for the *Voice* for about 20 years,



The Noe Valley Stork: Patrick and Mary Duffy, who are expecting a baby in December, captured this photo of a great blue heron sitting on their fence on 23rd Street.

and **Leo** is a photographer and professor emeritus of Stanford University, where he founded the art department's photography program. The Associates of the Stanford University Libraries devoted their entire Spring & Summer 2003 issue of their publication *Imprint* to his career. Another reason to celebrate.

The Holubs both feel that common interests contribute greatly to their happy union.

"We're very compatible," says Florence. "He's a very quiet man; he only speaks when he has something to say. He's a very relaxing person to be with, and I'm a nervous wreck most of the time! We were drawn together because of our love of art. We met in art school [the California School of Fine Arts, now the San Francisco Art Institute], and I think that's the glue, really. Right now most of our social life is going to art openings and receptions, and it continues to be our primary love," notes Florence.

They also love the same kinds of foods, to the point of ordering identical entrees when they dine out, because, says Florence, "Sometimes when Leo orders big things, and I order a little thing, then when I cook the next meal at home, he's not ready for that much food. So I try to order the same thing that he has. This way, we're always hungry for a good meal at the same time. We've had a few years to adjust, you see."

Over their anniversary dinner of halibut at Delfina on 18th Street, the Holubs met another couple, **David Sanchez** and his partner **Maria Pardal**.

Sanchez remembers the occasion. "We overheard [Florence and Leo] telling the waitress that it was their anniversary, and we couldn't believe they said 62 years be-

cause they were so young-looking," he says. "When we found that it was true, we congratulated them and started to talk a bit."

It turns out that Sanchez and Pardal also live in Noe Valley, on 25th Street. In fact, Sanchez is a lifelong Noe Valleyan. He was born in a little cottage on 24th Street behind what is now Hot Headz.

"My mother was a fairly progressive woman for the time, and she wanted to deliver me at home," recalls Sanchez. "When she was going through labor, my dad was nervous because he didn't think the doctor would get there in time. So he asked the woman he thought was the nurse when the doctor would arrive, and she said that she was the doctor. So, I was delivered at home by a woman doctor—in 1938. It was very unusual at that time."

Another person with a rich history in Noe Valley is **Chris Borg**. She never lived here, but she was a recreation director at Upper Noe Recreation Center for close to 30 years. In August, she was transferred to Parque Ninos Unidos, a brand new park at 23rd and Folsom streets. The daughter of **Albert J. Farrell**, a Recreation and Park supervisor, Borg has spent her entire career with the department. She began in 1966, when she was a college student, working part-time at such jobs as taking care of lost children at the zoo and attending the locker room at Rossi Pool.

Borg's fondest memory is the day her co-worker **Bart Borg** asked her to marry him. "Bart's a recreation director at Douglass Park and Glen Park now. He proposed to me in the kitchen at Upper Noe, and we went to the city calendar in our office and picked out a date," she recalls.

They celebrated their 25th anniversary on Aug. 19, 2003.

At Upper Noe, Borg was the power behind an array of recreational programs,

for everyone from toddlers to senior citizens. She was big on outdoor activities, and big on indoor details, too—from choosing toys that would help toddlers develop motor skills to decorating the rec center walls for each season and holiday.

The last few years, however, Borg felt like she was running out of steam. "You get to know a lot of people, get close to them. They tell you their history, and then all of a sudden a couple of years later, you never see them again. It never really hit me until two years ago. I became depressed. I was toast, burned to a crisp. I had to change my ways," she says.

Borg was on the verge of retiring when she was asked to work at Parque Ninos Unidos. "I came in and I saw their faces, just smiling and happy, so appreciative that the community could put this beautiful park together, and it just totally threw me back into it. I remembered why I went into recreation. I buttered my bread, and I started all over again."

Never fear, she says, the popular Tiny Tots and Kids Gym programs will continue at Upper Noe. Call 695-5011 for dates and times.

To her many friends in Noe Valley, Borg says, "Thanks for putting up with me. I hope your children are doing well. Come on over and see me sometime. We're still neighbors. I love you all. And I'll miss you."

If you have an item for This 'n' That—a wedding, anniversary, or birth announcement, perhaps—drop a line to the Noe Valley Voice. Send letters or photos to 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may e-mail thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com. You can also leave a message at 415-821-3324.



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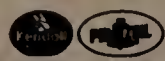
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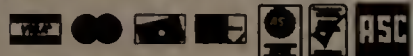
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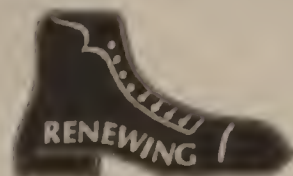
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SHORT TAKES

Who Will Wear Willie's Hat?

If you want to get a good look at the six leading contenders for mayor of San Francisco, here's your chance.

Four prominent civic groups in Noe Valley will join forces to host a mayoral candidates forum on Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the Alvarado School auditorium, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Confirmed speakers include candidates Angela Alioto, Tom Ammiano, Matt Gonzalez, Susan Leal, Gavin Newsom, and Tony Ribera.

"You'll get to see them in a setting where they have to relate more to each other and to the audience. You learn a lot about a person that way," says Jeannene Przyblyski, president of Friends of Noe Valley, which is co-sponsoring the event with the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, Upper Noe Neighbors, and the Collingwood Hill Neighborhood Association. "This is also a chance [for us] to create educated voters and raise awareness about the importance of the mayoral race," she adds. "With the recall [of Governor Gray Davis] and the approaching presidential race, people are getting voter fatigue, and we can't afford that. People need to vote."

After timed introductory remarks by each candidate, a representative from each of the sponsoring groups will ask one question. Then the moderator will accept questions from the audience. (In an effort to be non-partisan, and to keep the discussion from being hijacked by inflammatory or biased remarks, the sponsors will ask audience members to submit questions in writing, Przyblyski says.)

If you have questions, call her at 282-4334. Alvarado Elementary School is located at 625 Douglass Street, at Alvarado Street. Election Day is Nov. 4.

A Balm for Parents

Does the G.W. Bush in bomber jacket action figure trouble you? Are you seeking a peaceful haven in this tumultuous world? The Calm and Confidence for Parents workshop could be a refuge. Coled by yoga instructor Elise Collins and local author Andrea Gosline, the workshop is designed to help parents create harmony and balance in their busy lives.

"I will share peaceful parenting practices that include ways to awaken to the day with a grateful heart; antidotes to negativity; strategies for releasing the struggle around eating and sleeping habits; practical ideas for cooking and serving nutritious, delicious kid chow; activities and rituals to simplify playtime; and easy steps for de-cluttering your mind, your schedule, and your home," notes Gosline.

Gosline will present material through personal anecdotes and excerpts from her writings. At key points, Collins will introduce helpful yoga poses that address workshop themes. There also will be plenty of time for parents to share their experiences.

The workshop is set for Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Open Door Yoga, 1500 Castro Street, at 25th Street. The



They Would Be King: Three candidates for mayor—City Treasurer Susan Leal, Supervisor Gavin Newsom, and former Supervisor Angela Alioto—pled their case to the Noe Valley Democratic Club on July 16. Their next whistle stop in the neighborhood will be Oct. 1, when they'll face rivals Tom Ammiano, Matt Gonzalez, and Tony Ribera in a candidates forum at Alvarado School.

Photos by Najib Joe Hakim

\$90 fee includes supplemental materials to take home. For more details, visit www.opendooryoga.com. Pre-registration is encouraged; call the studio at 824-5657. If you have questions, Gosline will welcome calls at 824-6511.

Gosline is the mother of two children and author of six parenting books, including *Mother's Nature: Timeless Wisdom for the Journey into Motherhood*. In 2004, HarperCollins will publish her first two children's picture books. Collins is a yoga instructor and mother of one child.

After the workshop, Gosline and Collins will begin a weekly drop-in parenting circle on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and on Mondays from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Lost Pets Found Online

San Francisco Animal Care and Control (ACC), also known as the city pound, has a new service that will speed up the search process for anyone who has lost a dog, cat, iguana, parrot, rabbit, or other beloved pet. It's called the PetHarbor Lost Pet Reunion System, and to celebrate its inauguration, ACC will hold a party at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at its animal adoption center at 1200 15th Street near Harrison Street.

Funded by the Friends of San Francisco Animal Care and Control, PetHarbor will enable a person to search for a lost pet online at www.petharbor.com or by using a touch screen in ACC's lobby. The system contains photos and a brief description of the stray or lost pets currently housed at ACC.

"It will go very far in helping us in our lifesaving efforts. Can you imagine looking to adopt an animal from your own home, or if you've lost your pet, being able to search our kennels through the Internet to see if your animal is down here? It's a wonderful service," says 23rd Street resident and ACC director Carl Friedman. "It also basically turns us into a 24/7 operation. People can now utilize some of our services any time of the day or night."

For the full scoop, call 554-6364.

St. Philip's Festival Sept. 27-28

When St. Philip's Parish was established in 1938, the fledgling congregation held its first festival. Sixty-five years later, the annual fundraiser is still going strong. This year, the celebration is on for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27 and 28, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will also be a dinner dance Saturday night beginning at 6 p.m.

Booths, staffed by parent volunteers and alumni, will offer inexpensive temptations for just about everyone, including games, baked goods, candy, plants, groceries, holiday items, toys, face painting, a caricature artist, a raffle, and a bounce house. And, of course, the food will run the gamut

from hamburgers to lumpia, and churros to pad thai. Prizes are all new, donated by neighborhood merchants and families.

Then there's the entertainment. You can see an array of acts including an Elvis impersonator, Polynesian dancers, Taekwondo, Irish dancing, a magic show, the St. Philip Choir, and a talent show featuring the children of the parish.

"It provides you with that small-town feel in the middle of a big city," says Doreen King-Roberts, who is on the festival planning committee. "It's about a community getting together and having fun and doing something safe. There are only two entrances, and they're monitored, even though admission is free. So everyone can relax and enjoy themselves."

All proceeds will benefit St. Philip School, which serves children in kindergarten through eighth grade. The parish is at 24th and Diamond streets. For more information and for dinner dance tickets, call 824-8467.

A Show of Hands

Knobby knuckles, short life lines, tiny fingers, French-tip nails, smooth skin, or bulging veins. It doesn't matter. If you're a fan of the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, artist Vicki Saulls wants to memorialize your hands in two artworks planned in conjunction with the center's upcoming renovation. She needs 50 volunteers of all ages.

The project is part of the San Francisco Arts Commission's Public Art Program. Saulls was selected by the community from a pool of artists who submitted proposals for the site. "My sense of the center is that it's a really welcoming place for diverse interests and community groups. I wanted to use the welcoming theme, and came up with the idea of using hands and gestures. My plan is to use various groupings—parents and children, friends, couples, partners—doing gestures. They could be holding hands, holding a basketball, playing cards. I expect some people will have ideas better than mine as far as the final gestures used," says Saulls.

At a community meeting on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 2:30 to 5 p.m., Saulls will demonstrate the casting technique she will use to create a large artwork of sculpted hands for the center's new main lobby and a smaller artwork, also incorporating sculpted hands, for columns that will be near the building's main entrance.

Don't worry, prospective volunteers. Molds of your hands will be made of alginate. It's non-toxic and comes off easily. If you have any doubts, call 252-3215.

The Library Has Designs on You

If you've ever felt like your opinion didn't matter, the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library has an antidote for you. It's a two-part Community Design Workshop on the renovation of our neighborhood library. Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. will be a design workshop. Thursday, Oct. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. will be a presentation and discussion.

Architects from Carey & Company will bring in several design schemes to stimulate ideas. Library staff and other experts will be on hand to help explain the priorities of the San Francisco Public Library's Branch Library Improvement

Program. It was established in November 2000 when voters passed a \$106 million bond measure to upgrade our branch library system. Input from neighbors of all ages and inclinations is an integral part of the process. The workshop will also be a chance to help shape the look and function of a neighborhood resource.

"We're looking forward to working with the community to find creative solutions to accommodate 21st-century library services, while still retaining its [the library's] beautiful historic nature," commented Susan Hildreth, City Librarian.

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, located at 451 Jersey Street between Castro and Diamond streets, is scheduled to close for the approximately two-year renovation in the summer of 2004. The building will undergo a seismic retrofit, as well as major improvements to the facilities, such as a new elevator and a remodeled children's room. For more information, call the bond division of the San Francisco Public Library at 557-4354.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Laura McHale Holland.

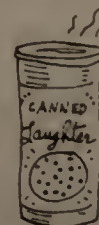
Seniors Are Secure for Another Year

Wendy Cohen of Project Open Hand got some reassuring news at the end of June. Despite a slash in its budget, the city's Office on the Aging will be able to fund the Noe Valley Senior Center lunch program for another year. As reported in our April 2003 issue, the Office on the Aging had previously recommended that all lunch sites serving fewer than 30 members be closed. At the time, Cohen was serving lunch to about 20 seniors per day.

Cohen, who has managed Project Open Hand's Noe Valley site for the past 4½ years, is ecstatic that the center has been saved. So are her regulars: seniors who arrive each weekday, not only for a hot meal, but for conversation, friendship, and fun.

"We want to thank everyone who helped. The seniors did a lot for themselves by bringing more of their friends in. We're up to 23 regulars now and hope to get more through word-of-mouth. They also organized a letter-writing campaign. Keenan Kelsey [pastor of the Noe Valley Ministry, where the center is housed] advocated for us. And Supervisor Duffy's office went to bat for us too," says Cohen.

Located at 1021 Sanchez Street, the senior center is open Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Activities include free haircuts for seniors (by appointment), birthday parties, and Friday afternoon card games. Seniors are asked for a \$1.50 donation; people under 60 years old pay a mere \$3.75. While drop-ins will be welcomed, Cohen prefers that you phone her in advance at 648-1030 so she can be sure she has enough food for everyone.



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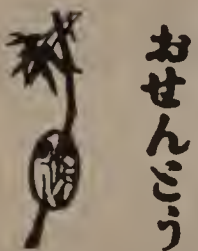
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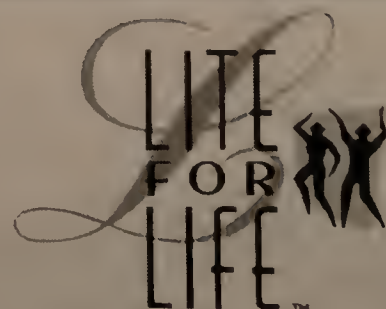
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Fringe Benefits

By Stephanie Crowley

One of the things I have loved about living in Noe Valley for the past nine years is that it is a part of the city that doesn't necessarily feel like The City. It's mostly quiet, with single-family houses and shady sidewalks. There are hundreds more couples pushing strollers than homeless pushing shopping carts. And at the same time, we're only a stone's throw away from jazzy nightclubs, skyscrapers, an amazing array of arts and culture, and all the things that make living in a city wonderful.

As a theater publicist, I'm always heading out to the Curran Theatre, or the Magic Theatre at Fort Mason, or to the latest 42nd Street Moon show at the Eureka Theatre—but possibly my favorite project is the annual San Francisco Fringe Festival. Based in the heart of the Tenderloin, the Fringe is an unpredictable collection of maverick microtheater where anything can happen (and usually does). It's my annual foray into the world of low-budget productions, a world that in some ways represents the opposite of my Noe Valley experience.

I'll admit it, as I approach my middle years I am less and less inclined to indulge in the city's nightlife. Dance

clubs that don't open until midnight are lost on me (I can barely stay awake past 10 p.m.). Bar-hopping lost its appeal right around the time my college loans were paid off. But the San Francisco Fringe Festival is a perfect opportunity to counterbalance the safe predictability of my Noe Valley life; a time to dip my toes in that cool, edgy, hip, artsy scene without venturing in deeper than I can swim.

The Fringe, now in its 12th year, always happens during the first two weeks of September. The festival showcases about 55 different performances from around the world, in a 12-day rotating schedule. I usually pick the first Friday and Saturday of the festival; shows start on Friday at 7 p.m., on Saturday at 1 p.m. I head to Castro and Market to catch the Muni and ride to the Powell Street Station. Once above ground, I head west with a growing crowd of other intrepid art lovers.

They are all strangers, but strangers like me. Many of us look around a bit nervously as we make our way through the gritty streets of the Tenderloin. We offer each other friendly, slightly

relieved smiles. We wait in line together, then sit through a show that lasts just under an hour and is deeply dramatic (or strangely funny, or even just strange). Once it is finished, we stream out onto the sidewalks again, joining the outflow from the other theaters. We check our programs, and head toward another venue.

Over the next few hours, I see two or three or four shows, run into some of

They are all strangers, but strangers like me. Many of us look around a bit nervously as we make our way through the gritty streets of the Tenderloin. We offer each other friendly, slightly relieved smiles. We wait in line together, then sit through a show that lasts just under an hour and is deeply dramatic (or strangely funny, or even just strange).

the same people at some of them, and sometimes even strike up conversations with these now-familiar cohorts, these fellow Fringers. I stop by the EXIT Café (in the EXITheatrePlex) for a short break, a cup of coffee, and something sweet. Night falls and we theatergoers stride down the sidewalks like a country unto ourselves. We hardly even notice our surroundings now—we are a community experiencing, evaluating, being entertained.

By the time I am getting tired, or hungry for an actual meal, I've seen more theater in one day than I usually do in months. My imagination is sparking with the things I've seen and heard, and normally the entire enterprise hasn't cost more than \$40. I've had my little excursion into the urban jungle, and as I climb the hills back to my quiet little Noe Valley apartment, I once again feel silent gratitude to have the best of both worlds at my fingertips.

The San Francisco Fringe Festival runs Sept. 3 to 14 and offers 34 "core" performances in three venues near Union Square, plus 20 shows in locations throughout San Francisco. Tickets are \$8 or less per show. "Frequent Fringer" passes, good for 10 shows for \$55, are available at TIX Bay Area, Union Square, or by calling 415-931-1033. For a complete schedule, call 415-673-3847 or go online at www.sffringe.org.

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Illustration by Jack Tipple

Muni Fares Go Up Sept. 1

Noe Valley bus riders may be lugging around more pocket change this month. That's because the San Francisco Municipal Railway has just raised fares by a quarter. In case you missed the announcement, the adult fare to ride the city's buses, trolleys, and streetcars went from \$1.00 to \$1.25, starting Sept. 1, 2003. It costs more to ride the cable cars, too. Here are the new single-fare rates:

- Adults** (ages 18-64) \$1.25
On cable cars \$3.00
- Discount** (Seniors age 65+ and disabled persons) 35¢
On cable cars \$3.00
- Reduced Evening Cable Car Fare**, daily from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. . . . \$1.00
- Youths** (ages 5-17) 35¢
- Children** (under age 5) free

Rates for the new monthly and weekly fare passes are as follows:

- Fast Pass** (adult monthly) \$45.00
- Senior Pass** (senior monthly) . . \$10.00
- Monthly Sticker** for valid Discount Card \$10.00
- Youth Pass** (youth monthly) . . . \$10.00
- Weekly Pass** (+ \$1 for cable car service) \$12.00

Also note that as of Sept. 1, Muni tokens will be sold in rolls of 10 for \$10.50. Be aware as well that transfers are neither issued nor accepted on the cable cars.

Tipping the driver is also not encouraged. However, a smile never hurts. Happy trails and enjoy your commute.



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• SEPTEMBER 2003 •

NOW: St. Philip's Grammar School class of 1958 is planning a REUNION DINNER in October, please call Consuelo Hooper-Aguilar at 415-435-0941, fax 925-671-2684 or 415-435-1462, or e-mail consuelo24@msn.com.

AUG. 30-SEPT. 1: The 19th annual "A LA CARTE, A LA PARK" taste of San Francisco features 30 city restaurants in themed pavilions, and music by the Bangles, General Public, Solomon Burke, and Arrested Development. 11 am-6 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 458-1988.

AUG. 30-SEPT. 1: Ceramicist Jacqueline Thompson and musician Aryeth Frankfurter are two Noe Valley participants in the 40th annual Kings Mountain ART FAIR in Woodside. 650-851-2710.

SEPT. 1: The Greenbelt Alliance hosts a HIKE from San Francisco to Sausalito and over the Marin Headlands, returning by ferry. 10 am-6:45 pm. 255-3233.

SEPT. 1: The S.F. LABOR DAY FESTIVAL at Yerba Buena Gardens features music by Utah Phillips, Holly Near, Or. Loco and his Rockin' Jalapeño Band, and the San Francisco Labor Chorus. 11 am-5 pm. Mission between 3rd and 4th streets. 543-1718.

SEPT. 1-30: LILLIAN CARTWRIGHT, a teacher in the Art with Elders program, exhibits her paintings at Chatterbox. Reception Sept. 13, 4-7 pm. 1185 Church St. 647-0900.

SEPT. 1-30: LIVING T'AI CHI of Noe Valley offers classes in meditation and Qigong, taught by Chris Sequeira. Mon. and Tues., 6-7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am-noon, at Upper Douglass Park, 27th and Douglass. 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

SEPT. 2 & 30: Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

SEPT. 3: A STROLLER TOUR of the Japanese Tea Garden is led by the Friends of Recreation & Parks. 10-11 am. Meet inside the main gate of the Tea Garden. 263-0991 or 750-5105.

SEPT. 3-14: The 12th annual FRINGE FESTIVAL features local and international performances of 34 "core" shows in the three Exit Theaters, and 20 "Bring Your Own Venue" shows at various locations. For a schedule, call 673-3847 or visit www.sffringe.org.

SEPT. 3-DEC. 17: Hope Levy offers "MEMORY Exercises." Wednesdays, on a drop-in basis, 9:30-11:30 am. 30th Street On Lok Senior Center, Room 318, 225 30th St. 550-4415.

SEPT. 4: Meet author Cyra McFadden and photographer Marcia Lieberman at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's OPEN HOUSE. 3-6 pm. SFSU Downtown Center, 425 Market St. 405-7711.

SEPT. 4: Meredith Eliassen talks about a scrapbook of palm prints compiled by Mme. Neergard, PALMISTRY editor of the *San Francisco Call*, from 1899 to 1903. 5:30-7 pm. The Society of California Pioneers, 300 Fourth St. 957-1849.

SEPT. 4: The Friends of Noe Valley holds its annual Neighborhood Night at the S.F. SYMPHONY. For ticket information, call 282-4334.

SEPT. 4: A MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM on children's issues is sponsored by the Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. 7-9 pm. State Building basement auditorium, 455 Golden Gate Ave. 239-0161.

SEPT. 4 & 11: A SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE party on Sept. 4 introduces the series of classes beginning Sept. 11 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372

SEPT. 4-30: Noe Valley artist Shoshanah Oubiner exhibits her paintings in a ONE-WOMAN SHOW, "Infinite Worlds Within," at the Canessa Gallery in downtown San Francisco. Opening reception Sept. 6, 3 to 6 pm. 708 Montgomery St. 510-333-1873 or www.cybermuse.com.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19 & 26: A YOUTH CHESS CLUB at the Excelsior Branch Library schedules beginners from 3 to 4 pm and intermediate/advanced players from 4 to 5 pm; ages 5 and up. 4400 Mission St. 337-4735.

SEPT. 5-7: OPHELIA'S STAGE dance company performs five new and four repertory pieces. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 6 pm. Oance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. 273-4633.

SEPT. 5 & 12: VOLUNTEER training is offered for guides and greeters at the reopening of the Conservatory of Flowers. Call Volunteer Manager Michele Canning at 750-5105.

SEPT. 6: A TENANTS CONVENTION hosted by the S.F. Tenants Union will discuss renters' rights and Rent Board reform. 11 am-3 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 282-6656.

SEPT. 6: An ORIGAMI CLUB for all ages meets at 2 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland St. 695-5160.

SEPT. 6: "MARS DAY (and Night)" features education and activities for all ages; telescopes will look at the red planet after sundown. 2-10 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

SEPT. 7: The Noe Valley Ministry's FALL GATHERING open house features lunch, music, and "surprise appearances by oddly-dressed people." Noon, following the worship service. 1021 Sanchez St. Reservations requested. 282-2317

SEPT. 7: Rocket DOG RESCUE will be stationed in front of Zephyr Real Estate with some good dogs who need homes. Noon-4 pm. 4040 24th St. (between Castro and Noe) 642-4786

SEPT. 7: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church presents "Modinhas," late 18th-century BRAZILIAN ART SONGS accompanied by guitar and harpsichord. 3 pm. 3281 16th St. 863-6811

SEPT. 7: The monthly meeting of CROCHET by the Bay features instruction on freeform beading crochet; all skill levels welcome. 3:30-6:30 pm. ImagiKnits, 3896 18th St. 621-6642.

SEPT. 7: Vocalist Dorothy Lefkowitz sings at a JAZZ JAM. 6-8 pm. Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

SEPT. 7 & 21: San Francisco CITY GUIDES hosts a free walking tour of the Mission Dolores neighborhood. Meet at noon at 20th and Church. 557-4266.

Ask again later.

SEPT. 7-28: See Jane Run Sports sponsors a free 5K FUN RUN/WALK, Sundays at 10 am. Meet at the store at 3870 24th St. to pick up the weekly route. 401-8338.

SEPT. 9: FILMS for preschoolers 3 to 5 will be shown at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 9: The New College of California School of Law offers a workshop "How to Present a Case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT." 6 pm. 50 Fell St. 241-1300

SEPT. 9, 16 & 23: Edward Jones sponsors a Tuesday INVESTMENT CLASS. "for serious investors only." 6:30-8 pm. For reservations, call 282-4079

SEPT. 10: The Friends of Recreation & Parks offer a free WALKING TOUR of the statues around the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park. 10-11:30 am. Meet at the John McLaren statue in front of the Rhododendron Dell on JFK Drive, just east of the 8th Ave. and Fulton entrance to the park. 263-0991 or 750-5105

SEPT. 10: Animal Care and Control introduces the PetHarbor LOST PET REUNION System at a ribbon-cutting party featuring demonstrations and refreshments. 11 am. 1200 15th St. 554-6364

SEPT. 10: A conversation with MAY-ORAL CANDIDATES, sponsored by the Neighborhood Parks Council, San Francisco Beautiful, and the Friends of the Urban Forest, is scheduled from 5:30 to 8:15 pm. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way. 621-3260.

SEPT. 10 & 24: A CANOELIGHT MEDITATION service at the Noe Valley Ministry begins at 6:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

SEPT. 11: Friends of Noe Valley hosts a discussion and demonstration of GREEN TRANSIT, including electric cars and bicycles with optional motors. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 826-2044

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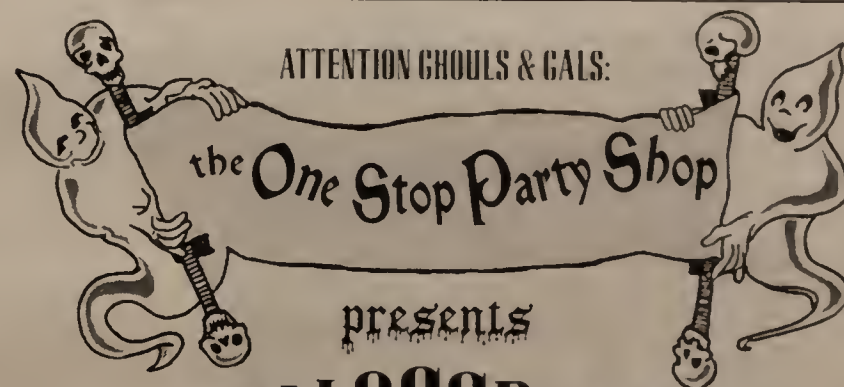


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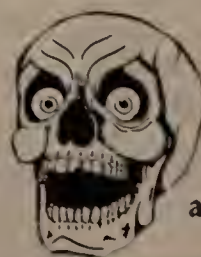
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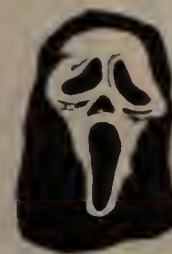


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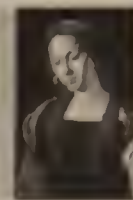
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CALENDAR



SEPT. 13: Scrounger's Center for Reusable Art Parts (SCRAP) hosts "Hats Off to TEACHERS," a celebration for educators and a chance for them to stock up on creative materials. 11 am–4 pm. 801 Toland St. 647-1746.

SEPT. 13: BEACH BLANKET BABYLON holds auditions for male and female singers; bring music for an up-tempo song and a ballad, photo, current resume, and (optional) dance shoes. Noon. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (formerly Green Street). Fax questions to 421-0518 or e-mail bbb@beachblanketbabilon.com.

SEPT. 13: Vicki Saulis unveils her concepts for two artworks commissioned for the Eureka Recreation Center; over 50 VOLUNTEERS are needed to have their hands sculpturally cast for use in the piece. 2:30–4 pm. 100 Collingwood St. 252-3215.

SEPT. 14: The T-Mobile International, formerly the S.F. GRAND PRIX, is a BICYCLE RACE around San Francisco. For registration and information call the Bicycle Coalition at 431-BIKE.

SEPT. 14: The 8th annual OOGGONE FUN RUN and walk to benefits PAWS and Pets Unlimited also features a party with music, contests, and activities. 9 am–1 pm. Lindley Meadow in Golden Gate Park. 241-1469 or 563-6702, ext. 142.

SEPT. 14: The 9th annual ARAB CULTURAL FESTIVAL features modern and classical music performances, dance troupes, a fashion show of traditional costumes, children's activities, and Arabic cuisine. 10 am–7 pm. County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. near Lincoln. 664-2200.

SEPT. 14: The SINGLETARIANS invite men and women 45 and up to a potluck (bring a dish to share) at 1 pm, followed by folk dancing. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. 821-7865 or 922-3033.

SEPT. 14: Dyke Daddy and Dyke Girl from S.F.'s LEATHER community discuss activism and fundraising at the monthly meeting of PFLAG. 2–4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Market St. 921-8850.

SEPT. 17: A reception for Bay Area ELOER ARTIST of the year, Ira Latour, and exhibitors in an Elder Arts exhibit begins at 5:30 pm. Main Library, Jewett Gallery, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

SEPT. 18–21: LITQUAKE 2003 literary festival features readings and a panel discussion; over 70 Bay Area authors will read, including Dorothy Allison, Po Bronson, Maxine Hong Kingston, JT Leroy, Beth Lisick, Deborah Major, Joyce Maynard, and Don Novello. For a schedule, www.litquake.org.

SEPT. 19: On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center hosts "Autumn Magic," its annual DINNER AND DANCE fundraiser gala. 5:30–10:30 pm. La Union Española, 2850 Alemany Blvd. For reservations call 292-8732.

SEPT. 19–21: "A Taste of Greece" FOOD FESTIVAL also features live bouzouki music, dancing, and cultural exhibits. Fri. and Sat., 11 am–10 pm; Sun., noon–9 pm. Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia St. 864-8000.

SEPT. 20: The Bicycle Coalition and the S.F. League of Urban Gardeners host a GARDEN BIKE TOUR of eight community plots around the city. Meet 11 am at the Corona Heights Community Garden in Corona Heights Park, at the end of States Street. 431-BIKE.

SEPT. 20: Andrea Gosline and Elise Collins offer a class, "Calm and CONFIDENCE FOR PARENTS," including work with inspiration cards and yoga exercises, from 1 to 4 pm. Open Door Yoga, 1500 Castro St. 824-6511.



SEPT. 20: "Around a CALIFORNIA PIANO 9" is a benefit for the Noe Valley Chamber Music Piano Fund, featuring Paul de Benedictis, Joshua Raoul Brody, Randy Craig, Leslie Harlib, Hokum W. Jeebs, Doug McKechnie, and Or. Jim Purcell. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

SEPT. 21: The Integral Yoga Institute offers a VEGETARIAN COOKING class, followed by a meal. 11 am–2 pm. 770 Olores St. Please register by Sept. 16, at 821-1117.

SEPT. 21: The UPPER GRANT AVENUE Fall Art Fair features fine arts, crafts, poetry, and entertainment, with the theme, "The Beat Is Back." 11 am–6 pm, between Vallejo and Filbert. 240-2529.

SEPT. 21: CHANTICLEER performs music from the Middle Ages and modern times at 7 pm. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th St. 863-6371.

SEPT. 22: The Rec and Park Department hosts a park improvement PLANNING MEETING for districts 7, 8, and 11, including Noe Valley, Glen Park, Twin Peaks, and the southwestern end of S.F. 6–8 pm. Pilgrim Community Center, 446 Randolph St. For info call Svetlana Karasyova, 831-2769.

SEPT. 22 & 26: An ongoing, drop-in PEACEFUL PARENTING CIRCLE led by Andrea Gosline and Elise Collins meets Mondays, 7:30 to 9 pm, and Fridays, 11 am to 12:30 pm. Open Door Yoga, 1500 Castro St. 824-6511.

SEPT. 23: ERIN OEALEY, author of *Goldie Locks Has Chicken Pox*, reads for ages 5 and older. 4 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

SEPT. 24: St. Paul's hosts a one-day bus trip to RIVER ROCK CASINO in Geyserville. Depart and return to the church, 9:30 am–5 pm. 221 Valley St. Call Katy O'Shea, 648-7538.

SEPT. 24: S.F. Mystery Bookstore's monthly READING GROUP features *In the Bleak Midwinter* by J.S. Fleming. 7–9 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

SEPT. 24: A "Paths of YOGA" class examines the various traditional paths of the practice, including Hatha, Raja, Jnana, Karma, and Bhakti Yoga. 7:30–pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Olores St. 821-1117.

SEPT. 25: "Readings from BANNED BOOKS" features local authors, including Deborah Major, Ruthanne Lum McCunn, and Howard Junker. 6–8 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

SEPT. 25: Amy Wallace discusses her new book, *Sorcerer's Apprentice: My Life with CARLOS CASTENADA*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 27: Biofeedback and Biogram Therapist Joanne Prall discusses "VISUALIZATION: Techniques for Coping with Stress and Pain" at the monthly meeting of the Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am–12:15 pm. Call 989-4422 for location.

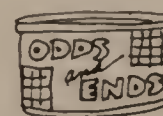
October Already?

The next edition of the *Voice* will be distributed on or before Oct. 1, 2003. If you have an item for the October calendar, please make sure we hear about your event by **Sept. 15**. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send e-mail to zabarska@aol.com.

SEPT. 27: Modern Times Bookstore hosts an INOIE PRESS PARTY for Children's Book Press, a nonprofit publisher of multicultural and bilingual picture books. 2 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 28: The Gay and Lesbian Sierans host a four-mile URBAN HIKE through Bernal Heights. Meet on the corner of Coso and Coleridge at 9:45 am. 864-5885.

OCT. 1: A MAYORAL CANOIOATES forum sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley, the East & West of Castro Club, and other local groups features Angela Alioto, Tom Ammann, Matt Gonzalez, Susan Leal, Gavin Newsom, and Tony Ribera. 7 to 8:30 pm. Alvarado School, 625 Ounglass St. 282-4334.



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Our Readers Resume Their Travel Tales

Welcome back. Whether you're returning to work, school, or a bench on 24th Street with a latte in your manicured hand, we're glad to see ya. This month's group of travelers toured the USA and exotic locations in Europe. We look forward to seeing where your trek took you.

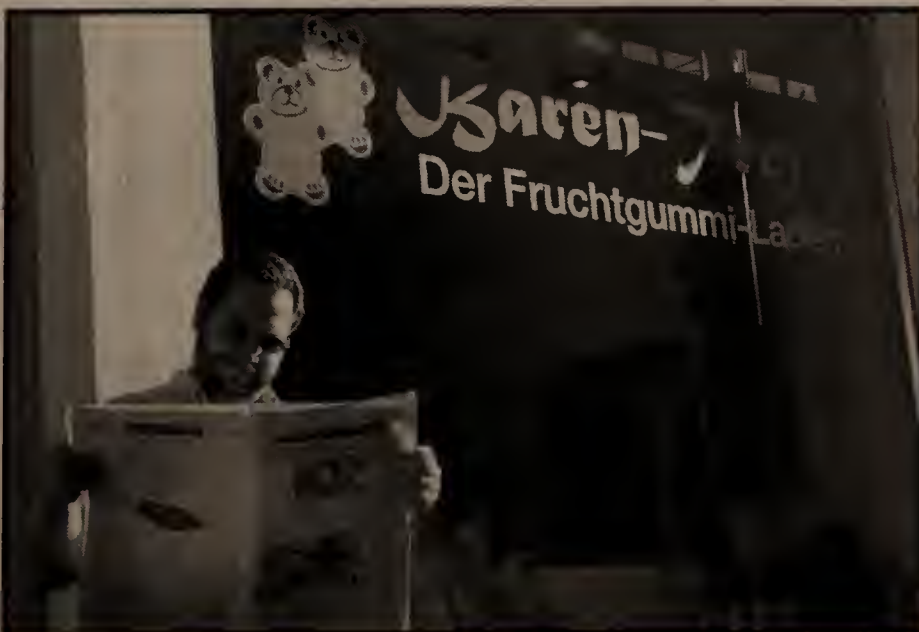
Join our scrapbook. Your next deadline is Sept. 15 for sending photos to the Voice, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or e-mailing them to jack@noevalleyvoice.com.



Michael and Rebecca Dolan allow daughter Madeleine to take a turn with the newspaper while they pose on Liberty Island in front of the New York City skyline.



Josh and Jeremy Moser, both San Francisco Little League players, paused in their study of the Voice sports section to visit the likenesses of Babe Ruth and Ted Williams in Cooperstown, N.Y., this July.



Arnie Cachelin e-mailed this photo from a recent trip to Darmstadt, Germany. He assures us that, sculpture, fine gardens, and architecture aside, true culture can also be found at a Gummi Bear store.

Photo by Frances Dosé



Sonia and Julian Bartlett share a copy of the Voice and a picnic at the Eiffel Tower with ex-Noe Valley (and now Paris) residents Evan and Maya Frenkel.



Having found some shade in the late summer heat of Oklahoma, San Francisco resident Daniel Tipple (center) shows cousins Mark (left) and Michael Kollmorgen the weather page in the Noe Valley Voice.

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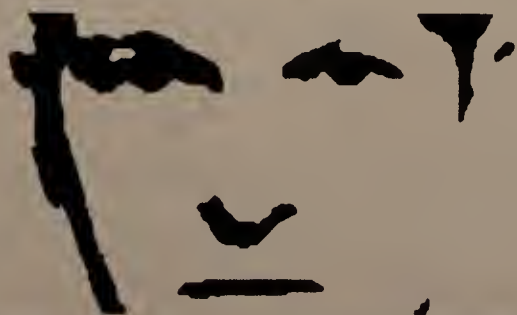
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Florence Holub recalls an encounter with several striking creatures in this tale originally published in the July 1992 issue of the Noe Valley Voice.

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

A Rattling Wilderness Experience



With vacation time drawing to a close, my thoughts have again strayed to our many exciting bygone summers. As a family, we Holubs enjoyed a great variety of group outings, and as city dwellers we were especially attracted to national parks and preserves. One vacation, however, stands out among the rest—our 1964 backpacking trip to the wilderness area of the Sierra foothills.

Participating in the adventure (in addition to myself) were my man Leo, our youngest son, Eric, who was 10 years old at the time, and our next-door neighbors Pat and Jim Hackett, the owners of two friendly and devoted shaggy dogs named Zen and Haiku. We chose the Sierra National Forest because dogs were allowed, and also because this particular forest was only a few hours away from the city.

On departure day we traveled through the Sacramento Valley and wound our way up into the foothills on a two-way road. When the road dead-ended, we parked the cars and set out on foot—with everything crammed into and tied onto our backpacks. Then we made our descent to a fork of the Yuba River, following a narrow deer path that led through chaparral, pine, and oak woodlands.

Upon reaching the bottom of the ravine, we crossed the stream by stepping from boulder to boulder while balancing our heavy loads. The dogs had difficulty following us because they kept sliding off the slippery rocks into the shallow stream. In the process, Zen and Haiku not only soaked themselves, but dunked the "sidepacks" that Pat had rigged to carry their dry dog food—thus rendering it instant Gravy Train!

When we reached the other side of the water, we hiked downstream until we found a suitable site to set up camp, on a sandy beach next to a swimming hole formed by a series of small rapids. Here we settled into our beautiful surroundings, at the base of a rocky cliff that overlooked the river and the green wooded slopes of a V-shaped canyon.

We had brought along steaks for our first dinner, which we barbecued that evening on a portable grill over an open fire. They were served with French bread and lettuce salad topped with blue cheese dressing. The pre-moistened dog food required no preparation.

As the day grew dark and cool, we huddled around the dying fire in our sleeping bags, looking upward in amazement at the luminous display of stars. A broad band of glitter, our Milky Way, arced across the night sky from mountaintop to mountaintop, and every so often a brilliant shooting star flared and burned out as it hit the earth's atmosphere. Watching with heavy eyelids, we fell asleep lulled by the sound of the rippling stream and the wind in

the pine trees.

The next day, awakened by birdsong, we swam in the river, sunned on the beach, and did a little exploring. We followed a tributary of water until we came to its source—a mountain spring that nurtured a lush crop of watercress. Pat and I gathered as much cress as our hands would hold and brought it back to camp. To keep it fresh, we scooped out a basin at the water's edge.

A tiny green frog made this his home, but whenever we approached, he hopped away, only to return the instant we departed. That night we enjoyed watercress salad, as an accompaniment to our canned beef stew. The dogs got their soggy dog food.

It took about two days to shed the cares of civilization and relax into the quiet of the wilderness, unmarred by the city sounds of traffic, TV, sirens, and indoor plumbing. With star-filled nights and sun-flooded days, we drifted like the stream, feeling our oneness with nature.

The third day, it got so hot that we walked up onto a bluff where the breeze cooled us as we ate our lunch of cheese and rye tack. Eric returned to camp to fetch his canteen, and a short time later we heard him call out loudly, "Dad, there are two snakes doing a funny dance. I think they're rattlesnakes. Yes, they are!"

Leo put down his camera, picked up a rock with which to defend his son, and hightailed it down the hill, with the rest of us at his heels.

Just as Eric had said, two large snakes, rearing half-upright, were facing one another only five feet above where we had been sleeping so peacefully the previous night. Oblivious to

us, they swayed from side to side, and then, suddenly, one or the other of them would throw his upper body at or around his opponent, almost as if they were Indian wrestling.

Eventually they became aware of our presence and turned their attention our way, scanning us from left to right. They did not rattle in warning or retreat in haste—they just surveyed us for what seemed like an eternity, as if they knew we were not going to harm them. Then one of the snakes lowered his body and leisurely slithered upward over the rocks, disappearing into a crevice. The remaining rattler stood his ground for a while, but then he too began to make a slow retreat, halting intermittently to turn his head and coolly check us out.

We were standing, frozen at attention, when the sharp point of a leaf pricked my bare leg. My reaction, commonly known as "jumping out of one's skin," felt exactly like the description.

After Jim and Pat gently reprimanded the dogs—"Well, you are a fine pair of watchdogs!"—we retreated to the bluff to finish our lunch and reevaluate our situation. Our deliberations were interrupted, however, by a loud thrashing sound coming from the underbrush and descending down the slope on the other side of the river. Expecting to see a bear, we were surprised to observe a shouting man, wading across the stream toward us, his gun held high above his head. When he reached us, he said that after hunting all day with no luck, he had become completely disoriented—lost, in fact. Then he had spotted us from above.

Leo knew the area well and was able to give the man directions to a settlement one mile downstream. But unable to restrain ourselves, we first had to

blurt out the story of our hair-raising encounter with the snakes.

As the hunter turned to go, he declared, "I'd like to get a shot at them!" His statement appalled us all, but it was compassionate Patricia who actually cried out, "You won't hurt them, will you?" The man turned and gave us a withering look, evidently not accepting the value of these snakes in the ecosystem—how they kept down the rodent population. After he left, we listened intently for the sound of his gunshot, but to our relief heard nothing.

Although we felt kindly toward the rattlers, we lacked the lunacy to spend another night sleeping next to a den of vipers. That afternoon, we packed our gear and trudged back over the path we had traveled four days prior. On the way, we passed a rustic cabin where the owner spoke to us. We told her of our adventure, but she was unimpressed. Only the day before, she said, she had almost stepped on a six-foot rattler sunning himself on her porch.

She also informed us that a group of boys with guns had been through the area several years before, shooting at every snake they saw, which happened to be the conspicuously marked king snake. Since the king snake is the rattlesnake's mortal enemy and helps keep the rattlesnake population under control, the boys' extermination of this species had led to an explosion of rattlesnakes.



Next we sought out the local forestry outpost and related our experience to the ranger there. He told us he had read about, but never actually observed, the snakes' "combat ritual," a contest to determine which male wins the female.

Although this camping trip happened 28 years ago [now 39], it has left an indelible impression—and we all have souvenirs. I have my sketches. Leo took photographs, and Jim composed a number of nature poems. Patricia, a music educator, has retained the musical sounds of the Sierras. And our son Eric will forever be imbued with a reverence for nature and all its living creatures.

That vacation remains the most memorable of our summer sojourns. But would we ever wish to go back to that wild and beautiful garden of Eden?

I know I speak for all concerned when I say: Not on your life!

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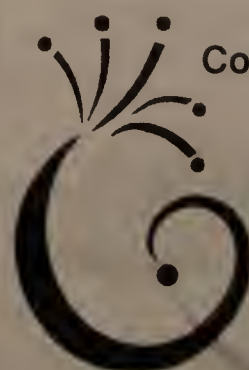
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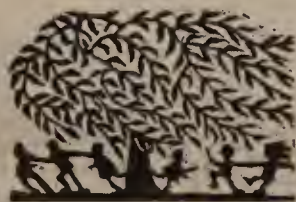


Hangin' at the Library. Three year old Christopher (left) and Sebastian Harper soak up the last days of summer at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library before going back to school.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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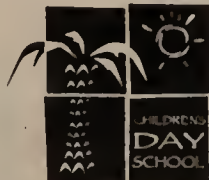
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Karling Aguilera-Fort Embraces the School's Three-Way Mix of Programs

By Sue Cattoche

It's a sunny August morning at Fairmount Elementary School, the day before teachers and office staff will return to prepare for the new school year, but the phone is already ringing nonstop. The school's new principal, Karling Aguilera-Fort, fields calls from parents, effortlessly switching between Spanish and English as he answers questions about the three distinct programs hosted by Fairmount: a popular two-way Spanish-English immersion program, an all-English language development program, and an "inclusion" program for students with special educational needs.

Aguilera-Fort is uniquely qualified for this varied assignment. Within the San Francisco Unified School District, he taught bilingual special education classes at Sanchez Elementary School and was assistant principal at Buena Vista Elementary, a school where all students participate in a two-way Spanish-English program similar to Fairmount's.

Most recently, he was director of Garfield Charter Middle School in Redwood City. But it's already clear that Fairmount is where he really wants to be, and he is passionate about his commitment to all the school's programs. His mantra: "We are all working for all of the students at Fairmount."

A group of young students wandering through the school attracts his attention.



Noe Valley resident Karling Aguilera-Fort can walk to his new job as principal of Fairmount Elementary School on Chenery Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Although they are speaking fluent English with each other, they are surprised when he introduces himself as their new principal—in Spanish. They answer him and continue the conversation in equally fluent Spanish. That's the goal of the two-way immersion program: equal proficiency and literacy in two languages by graduation at the end of grade five.

Beginning in kindergarten, immersion students receive 90 percent of their instruction in Spanish and 10 percent in English. Over the next few years, the proportion of instructional time using English increases, until all the students are reading, writing, and conversing in both languages fluently. With students coming to the program from both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking families, language learning is reinforced through social interaction with peers who are fluent in the second language.

Fairmount parents also may choose to

enroll their children in the English-only program, where students can be taught in English all day. Aguilera-Fort says the students in English-only classes will receive the same excellent curriculum and be encouraged to meet the same high educational objectives as students in bilingual classes.

Inclusion, the third program at Fairmount, maximizes opportunities for special needs students—children with disabilities—to participate in regular classrooms, sometimes with assistance from instructional aides.

"In my heart, I am a special education teacher," professes Aguilera-Fort. "I believe that all students have the potential and the right to learn. The Fairmount community shares this belief, and all the teachers embrace the inclusion program just like any other program. We are one community."

Residing only two blocks from the

school, Aguilera-Fort has found time to get to know the neighborhood and is already a regular at Martha & Brothers coffee shop on Church Street—that is, when he is not putting in long hours at his job.

Fairmount's families appear to be pleased with their new principal. "The parents have been very welcoming since I came aboard," Aguilera-Fort smiles. "They have helped smooth the transition between principals and are also very supportive of the teachers. They really care about all the students."

Aguilera-Fort also emcees a monthly poetry event at a restaurant on Valencia Street where students from area schools recite poetry in Spanish and English. Invoking the spirit of Garcia Lorca, these evenings at El Valenciano "reinforce the love for poetry and literature in Spanish, emphasize the importance of bilingual education, and teach students that language is rich and valuable. You can be absolutely bilingual without losing anything, without losing the mother tongue."

A painter leans through the doorway asking for directions, and the phone rings yet again.

"I keep telling myself this will all slow down once school begins," says Aguilera-Fort. Then he laughs at the absurdity of the idea as he walks away, gesturing for the painter to follow.



Fairmount Elementary School is located at 65 Chenery Street, a block south of 30th Street. The school, with an enrollment of 375 students, offers weekly tours, especially for parents of preschoolers who may wish to enter next fall. Call 695-5669 for dates and times.

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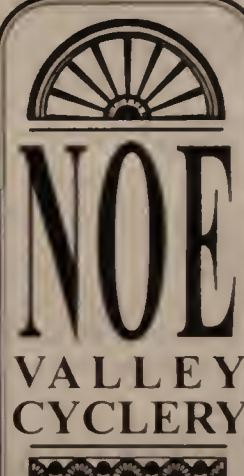
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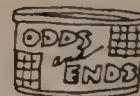
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FAMILY ADVENTURES

ARE WE THERE YET?

CLOSE TO HOME

Watch Out, Tiger!

The Kids Are Swinging at Mission Bay Golf Center

By Rosie Ruley Atkins

"Can you guys name a famous golfer?" I ask my son Miles and his pal Jesse as the N-Judah chugs past the stylized condos of South Beach.

"Tiger Woods," the two 7-year-olds shout.

I think of Tiger Woods toddling onto the golf course with his dad at age 3 and wonder if Tiger's dad had to keep reminding Tiger to leave the clubs in his bag until they got to the course. For the fourth or fifth time since we've boarded Muni, Miles' hand sneaks toward the driver poking out of the top of his bag.

"Leave it alone," I say.

He rolls his eyes. "I know, I know: wait until we get to the driving range."

We exit the train and cross the Fourth Street Bridge. Instead of using the sidewalk, we follow the path that runs along the Mission Creek houseboat community.

"Is this the driving range?" Jesse asks, pointing at the ramshackle houseboats that stand defiantly against the gleaming glass of the UCSF development across the water. He yanks a club from his bag, ready to drive a ball into



Alex Newman demonstrates how to drive a ball "thousands" of yards.

someone's floating living room.

"Not yet!" I call.

Around the corner, the boys spot Mission Bay Golf Center's imposing, two-story steel and concrete facility surrounded by black-mesh netting.

"Wow!" Miles says. "It looks like a video game."

At the very least, I know the boys will enjoy the aesthetics of the place. The woman at the token window advises us to use practice bays on the right-hand side of the upper deck. "The balls look like they're going further from up there," she says.

The boys pump their tokens into the ball machine, which dispenses scuffed balls into their yellow plastic buckets with a satisfying mechanical clanking.

I set each boy up in his own bright yellow practice bay and proceed to demonstrate the proper way to hold a club.

"Line your thumbs on the top of the club and link your left index finger with your right pinkie," I say.

Miles hefts his five-iron over his shoulder like baseball slugger Barry Bonds. Jesse adopts a stance that reminds me of my old field hockey days. I decide to let them go freelance until they figure out that there is a correct way to hit a golf ball.

After several misses, Miles connects with a ball and sends it aloft. It lands about halfway to the 25-yard flag.

"Good one," Jesse says, encouragingly.

Jesse lines up his shot and whacks a ball just clear of the safety net that protects golfers on the lower deck from errant shots. He whoops. The woman at the token window was right: even short shots look good from the upper deck.

After a few more swings, Jesse announces, "I think it's time to switch clubs." And with the gravitas of Tiger Woods on the 18th hole at the U.S. Open, he peers into his junior golfer bag.

"I wish I had more to choose from," Jesse says, running his hand over his collection of five clubs.

"I've only got four," Miles says. "At least you have five."

On his next swing, Miles pounds his club into the Astroturf about a foot short of the ball. He settles into the driving stance, and again the club connects with the turf instead of the ball.

"This game stinks," he announces. He drops his club and retreats to the shaded bench that runs along the back wall of the upper deck. He crosses his arms over his chest and frowns. Two benches away, a middle-aged man sits, wearing the exact same expression.

Jesse hits a few nice shots and then bangs three in a row into the bright yellow metal side of the bay. He joins Miles, cross-armed, on the bench.



Putting requires concentration. But if you sink the ball, you can reward yourself with French fries at a nearby cafe.

Photos by Ken Newman

"We definitely need more clubs,"

Jesse says.

I think of my husband scouring yard sales and thrift shops, searching for the perfect carbon driver, and I wonder if the desire for more clubs is hardwired into the male psyche.

After a few minutes of brooding, the boys resume their positions on their rubber mats. Jesse lines up and takes a textbook-perfect swing; the ball arcs over the 50-yard flag. Miles whistles appreciatively.

"I think that was about a thousand yards," he says.

Jesse looks out over the seven-acre range, littered with hundreds of white balls. "More or less," he says.

The two boys hit a stride, connecting with the ball more often than they miss. Their brows are wrinkled in a curious mix of pleasure, concentration, and dissatisfaction as they take their swings, and I can't help but think I'm getting a preview of the guys these boys will become.

I watch the cranes add steel beams to the office towers at the end of the range and listen to the oddly soothing hum of traffic whizzing past on I-280 just behind us. The boys are oblivious to anything but their swings.

"Last ball," Miles calls.

"Me too!" Jesse says.

"Save them for the putting green," I tell them.

At the green, the boys have trouble switching from the joyous big swings of the driving range to the more refined putt. Miles' first attempt flies off the green toward Stix, the golf center's on-site restaurant and bar.

"They have French fries in there," he informs us as he returns with his ball.

Jesse squats and pushes his ball into the cup with the palm of his hand.

"Well, I guess that's enough for one day," he says. The boys sling their bags over their chests and head into the restaurant, where they share a large plate of crispy fries.



Miles Atkins loads up on golf balls. At Mission Bay Golf Center a bucket costs \$8.

"So, do you guys think you're ready to play on a real golf course?" I ask them.

Jesse leans back, chews on a fry, and contemplates the question.

"I think so," he says. "I kind of like golf because it isn't all about winning."

Miles pushes a fry through a puddle of ketchup and adds, "Plus, you can get lots of clubs."

I follow the boys past the houseboats, listening as they brag about their best shots of the day. I imagine them spending Saturdays at the golf course, developing character, sportsmanship, patience. Miles stops and turns to me.

"Did Tiger Woods really play golf when he was 3?"

"Yes."

"How many clubs did he have in his bag?"

Rosie Ruley Atkins lives in Noe Valley with her husband, son, big red car, and a rotating assortment of tropical fish. Contact her at ruleyatkins@earthlink.net.

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The Mission Bay Golf Center (phone: 415-431-7888) is located at the corner of Sixth and Channel streets and is easily accessible via Muni. Take the N-Judah to Pac Bell Park. Cross the Lefty O'Doul Bridge, turn right, and follow Channel Street to the corner of Sixth Street. The center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. A bucket of balls costs \$8. The last bucket is sold at 10 p.m. Kids of all ages are welcome, but those younger than 6 must be watched closely. The driving range has a very limited number of kid-sized loaner clubs available at no extra charge. The pro shop next door sells starter kits for about \$70. (Yard sales and thrift shops are also great sources for golf clubs of all sizes.)

Gardeners might enjoy making a side trip into the thriving community garden hidden behind the wooden gate at the Sixth Street end of the path alongside the Mission Creek houseboats. Among the tangles of herbs and vegetables, you'll find whimsical outdoor art and maybe a friendly gardener or two who is happy to share fresh strawberries.



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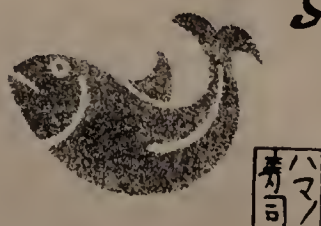
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SCHOOL REPORT

By Susan Cattoche

Editor's Note: With this issue of the Voice, writer Susan Cattoche will be expanding her School Report to include both James Lick and Alvarado schools, the two public schools located in "Downtown" Noe Valley. She also may report to the Voice on other local schools, on an occasional basis. Before working as a volunteer at James Lick over the past few years, Cattoche taught English in the middle grades, developed curricula for multicultural education, and helped design parent-involvement programs for the San Francisco Unified School District. A Noe Valley resident for 15 years, she shares her 1890 cottage "with a big, feisty cat and a mild-mannered drummer." Here's the first installment of what we hope will always be good news from Alvarado School.

Alvarado's Test Scores Shoot Up

From a distance, Alvarado Elementary School is a pale yellow beacon shining from the intersection of Alvarado and Douglass streets. Come closer, and you will notice that the fancifully shaped windows on the Douglass Street facade, outlined in pastel shades of lavender, green, and blue, are as bright, and as diverse, as the students who learn there.

Alvarado has long been known for its exemplary artists-in-residence program, established in 1968, and for its Spanish-English immersion program. Now it has a new claim to fame.

Principal David Weiner was ecstatic when the results from the rigorous California Standards Test were released in



Alvarado Principal David Weiner was beaming on June 6, the day Supervisor Bevan Dufty had proclaimed David Weiner Day in San Francisco. His smile got even bigger in August, when state test scores were released showing huge gains for Alvarado students. Photo by Vail Reese

mid-August. "We had one of the biggest increases in achievement test scores in the entire district," said Weiner. For example, Alvarado's fourth-graders jumped to 60 percent proficient in language arts this year, up from 35 percent last year; and to 59 percent proficient in math, up from 24 percent the year before.

"The wonderful thing is that these gains were across the board, for all of our students, in every subject area," he said. "They included lower-income students, disabled students, African-American students, and Latino students. We are really closing the achievement gap."

Weiner attributes the school's outstanding gains to "many programs working together." He cited "wonderful, dedicated teachers who put in hours on end; parents who help wherever they are needed most, not just in their own children's classrooms; a wonderful curriculum, including strong programs in the arts, science, and technology; a three-hour after-school academic program designed to help students catch up; and Superintendent Arlene Ackerman's Excellence for All plan, which concentrates resources exactly where they are needed most."

Parent Sandra Halladey chimes in: "Mr. Weiner is much too modest. His strong leadership has made a huge difference."

Alvarado serves 550 students in grades K-5. Students live in Noe Valley,

Glen Park, Diamond Heights, Bernal Heights, and the Mission. School tours are Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Parents and neighbors who would like to visit the school may call the office for more information.

Note: The Noe Valley Voice profiled David Weiner (October 2002) as he began his first year as a school principal.

Miracles in August at James Lick

James Lick Middle School on Noe Street was uncharacteristically quiet this summer, with no summer classes in session and only a few kids using the playground. The specter of budget cuts and layoffs seemed to cast a pall over the school after it closed in June. Yet behind the scenes, Principal Janice Daniels was very busy. She conferred with merchants and attended meetings of neighborhood groups; talked to neighbors, consulted with parents, and listened to students. Despite the financial meltdown, the school really would be repainted, inside and out, and Daniels wanted maximum community input in selecting the new colors.

In August the trucks arrived. First, there was a new roof. Then scaffolding on the exterior, and prep work commenced. Soon, fresh white paint ("Swiss Coffee") brightened the largest areas of the building, with a soft,

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
625 Douglass Street
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David Weiner, Principal

James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street
415-695-5675
Janice Daniels, Principal

grayed-green ("Silver Lace Vine") accenting the architectural details. Doors and windows were outlined in a deep, muted purple ("Widow's Walk").

Visitors arriving to register for classes found the interior brightened by "Honey Moon" white paint, highlighting the elaborate plaster details of the foyer ceiling. Soft beige "Dakota Land" and gentle green "Lapis" mimic colors found on the school's beautiful tiles.

Thanks to the efforts of a lot of wonderful people, James Lick's staff survived the layoffs, including art teacher Alexandra Redfield, who was mentioned here in June and profiled on TV Channel 7 as an example of a teacher facing a layoff.

Coffee with the Principal: Parents, neighbors, and merchants are invited to join Principal Janice Daniels for coffee between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on the last Friday of each month in Room 107, for open discussion of school-related issues.

The James Lick Community Alliance meetings continue on the last Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m., with lunch provided.

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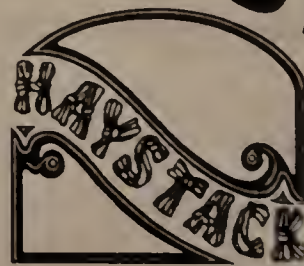
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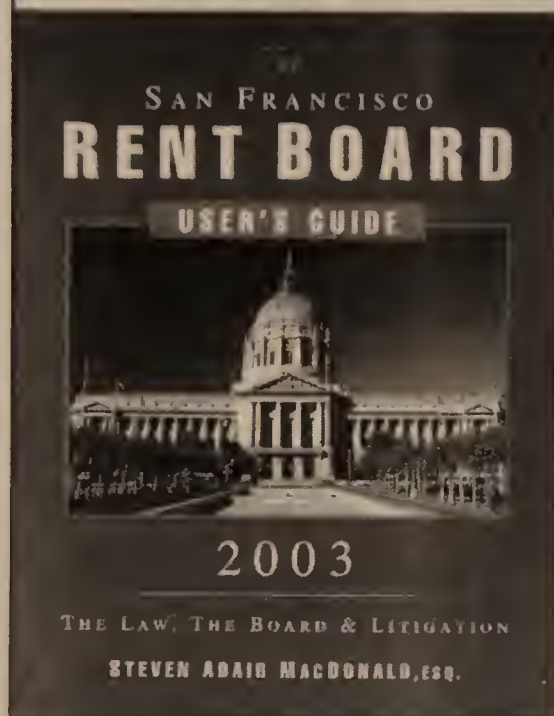
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here's one of my reviews...

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Author: Ana Maria Machado

Paperback \$5.95

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Signed, Maisy

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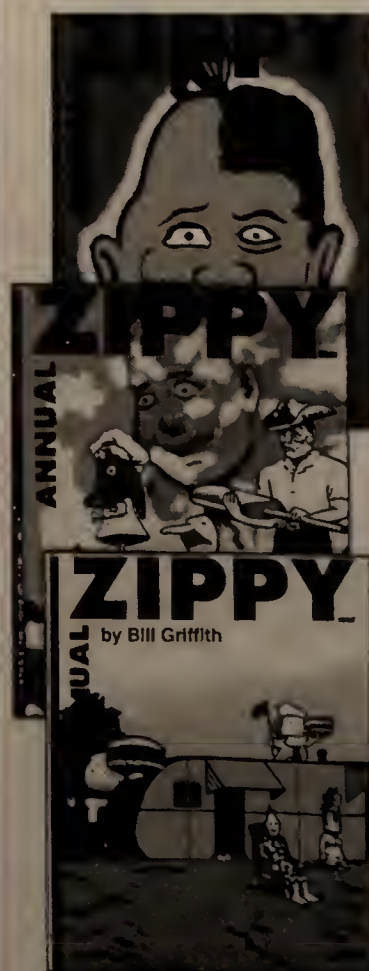
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BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's new book list, chosen by Noe Valley branch librarians Roberta Greiler and Carol Small, features a novel about a computer bug, the story of a 1911 Greenwich Village factory fire, and an anthology about children in wartime. To find out which books are available, call 695-5095, log onto www.spl.org, or visit the Noe Valley Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. Besides books, the branch has magazines, videos, CDs, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also offers the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*, a collection of books in Spanish, a women's literature section, and a section devoted to career resources. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction

◆ The first novel ever to be serialized by the *Wall Street Journal*, *Amanda Bright@Home* by Danielle Crittenden is an amusing look at the trials and tribulations of a stay-at-home mom.

◆ *The Bug* by Ellen Ullman, author of *Close to the Machine*, tells the tale of a computer bug, "The Jester," that jeopardizes a Silicon Valley start-up company.

◆ Set at the dawn of the 19th century in Portugal, *Hunting Midnight* by Richard Zimler is a historical novel portraying the bond that develops between John Zarco, a young man who discovers his Jewish heritage, and Midnight, a freed African slave.

◆ In *Reunion* by Alan Lightman, a middle-aged professor takes a painful walk down memory lane after attending his 30-year college reunion.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ In *The Healing Art*, poet and physician Rafael Campo draws from his life and medical practice to explore the vital connection between poetry and healing.

◆ *Triangle: The Fire That Changed America*, by David Von Drehle, dramatically chronicles the devastating Greenwich Village Shirtwaist Factory Fire of 1911, which killed 146 workers, most of them women.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 2 to 5 can hear stories read aloud at *preschool story time*, 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 2 and 30.

Films for Kids

◆ The library invites preschoolers 3 to 5 to watch short *films*, at 10 and 11 a.m., on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Friends Elect Officers

◆ New officers will be elected at the Sept. 11 meeting of the neighborhood group *Friends of Noe Valley*, starting at 7 p.m.

Help Remodel the Library

◆ Neighbors are invited to discuss their ideas for renovations to the Noe Valley Library at *Community Design Workshops* on Saturday, Oct. 4, 9:30 to 4 p.m., and Thursday, Oct. 9, 7 to 9 p.m.

Children's Fiction

◆ In *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo*, written by Rachel Vail and illustrated by Yumi Heo, we get inside the mind of a young child who feels very angry and expresses it, which makes it possible for her to enjoy playing with her brother once again. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond, creators of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, have shown that a day at school can be quite an adventure for a boy and his pet, in *If You Take a Mouse to School*. *Ages 3 to 5.*

◆ In *Get Well, Good Night* by Shelley Moore Thomas (illustrated by Jennifer Plecas), the scaly snail soup doesn't do the trick, and neither does the slimy grimy soup, but the knight's mother provides the remedy that finally works. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ A new student at Watertown Elementary School is the center of attention in her second-grade class because she is such a wonderful storyteller, in Lois Lowry's *Goonie Bird Greene*. *Ages 6 to 8.*

◆ After coming across the border in Tijuana, "I counted everyone and I still had five brothers. Whew!" So begins a tale of life in the United States for a Mexican immigrant family, as told by Amanda Irma Perez and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez in *My Diary from Here to There/Mi Diario de Aqui Hasta Alla*. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ Having run away from home, a boy has the good fortune to form a relationship with a free-thinking traveling juggler who helps him discover the world and its origins in Avi's *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, a great adventure and the latest winner of the Newbery Award. *Ages 10 and up.*

◆ In a powerful collection of stories edited by Jennifer Armstrong, contributing authors show the complex and sometimes horrible effects of war in *Shattered: Stories of Children and War*. *Ages 10 and up.*

Children's Nonfiction

◆ *What Was It Like, Grandma?* is a new series showcasing extended families from various ethnic groups in San Francisco. *Grandma Lai Goon Remembers: A Chinese-American Family Story* and *Grandma Francisca Remembers: A Hispanic-American Family Story* are in the collection at the Noe Valley Library. The other three titles in the series are available at other local branches. *Ages 6 to 9.*

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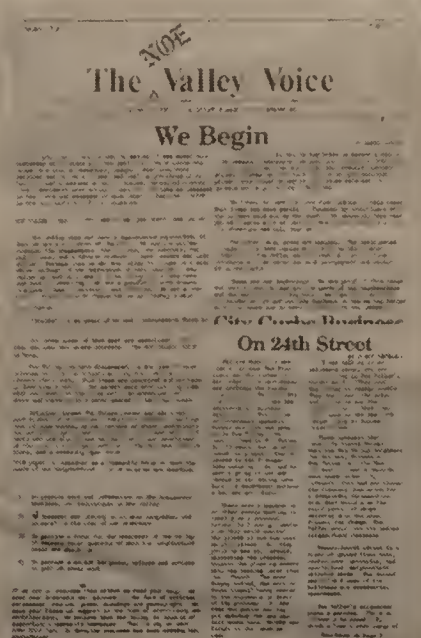
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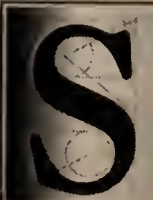
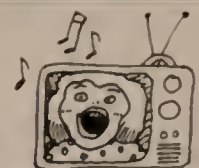


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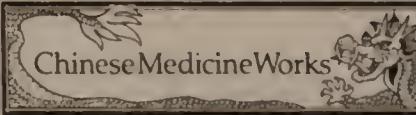
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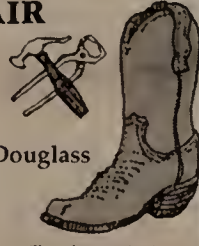
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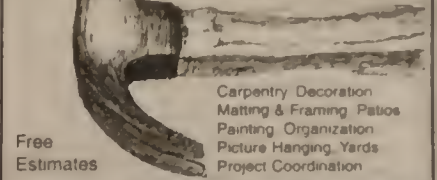
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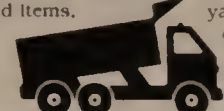
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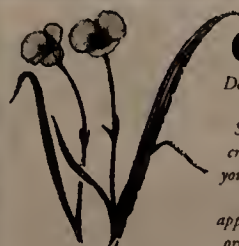
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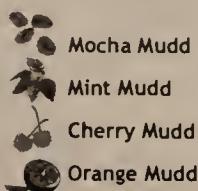
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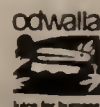
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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31869, San Francisco, CA 94131-0869
Meetings: First Tuesday of the month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly board meetings; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month (every other month—call to confirm), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Pam Coxson, 648-4977
Mailing Address: 25 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Jeannene Przyblyski, 282-4334
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Second Thursday every other month (call to confirm), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, noestrolls@aol.com
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Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rafael Mandelman, 648-4010
Mailing Address: 3821 20th St., Apt. 5, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association

Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lodoosh@pacbell.net
SWMNA web site: www.lodoosh.com
Mailing Address: 1345 Guerrero St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Salvation Army, 3550 Cesar Chavez St., 7 p.m. (Membership includes residents who live between Mission and Fair Oaks and Cesar Chavez and 24th streets.)

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Tom Mogensen, 824-7127
Mailing Address: 1459 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the October 2003 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Oct. 1. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS SEPT. 15, 2003.**

Note: Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed on our web site (www.noevalleyvoice.com) for one month.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

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St. Philip's Grammar School Reunion Dinner, planned for October 2003. Class of 1958, where are you? We need you. Leave name, phone no., e-mail, and address to send info/update. Contact Consuelo Hooper-Aguilar (work, M-F): 415-435-0941. Faxes 925-671-2684 (home) or 415-435-1462 (work). E-mail: consuelo24@msn.com. Please join us.

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

We Are the Bestest

By Mazook

OUR DEAR NOE VALLEY was at the top of the list of "Best of the Bay Neighborhoods" in the July 30 issue of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. The *Guardian's* staff writer Joyce Staton writes, "Judging from neighborhood write-ups in San Francisco travel guides, it must be required by law to mention Noe Valley's abundance of stroller-pushing families..., but there's a lot more to recommend this upscale area located smack-dab between the Castro and Mission Districts."

According to Staton, we are the neighborhood with the best concentration of Victorian houses built after the Castro Street cable car line was completed in 1887 (the cable car barn was located where Walgreen's is now). That's when Noe Valley first became "a hot ticket, given its nice weather, reliable transportation, and cheap houses quickly constructed by contractors who catered to the flood of newcomers."

Back then, our small cottages were snapped up by Irish, Italian, Russian, and German families for \$800 to \$2,500, Staton points out. She suggests we take walks along Jersey, Diamond, Sanchez, Vicksburg, and Church streets for the best views of Victoriana. Some specific examples of splendor: 4279 to 4293 23rd Street, 1007 Diamond, 514 Jersey, 1051 Noe, and 1610 to 1618 Castro.

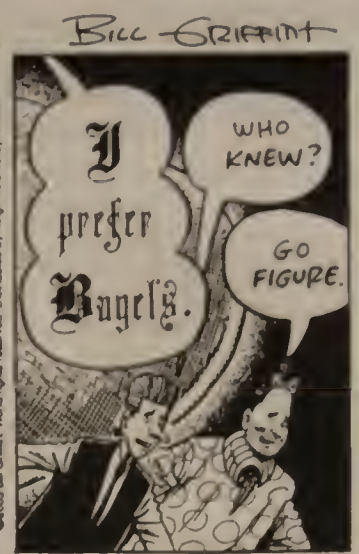
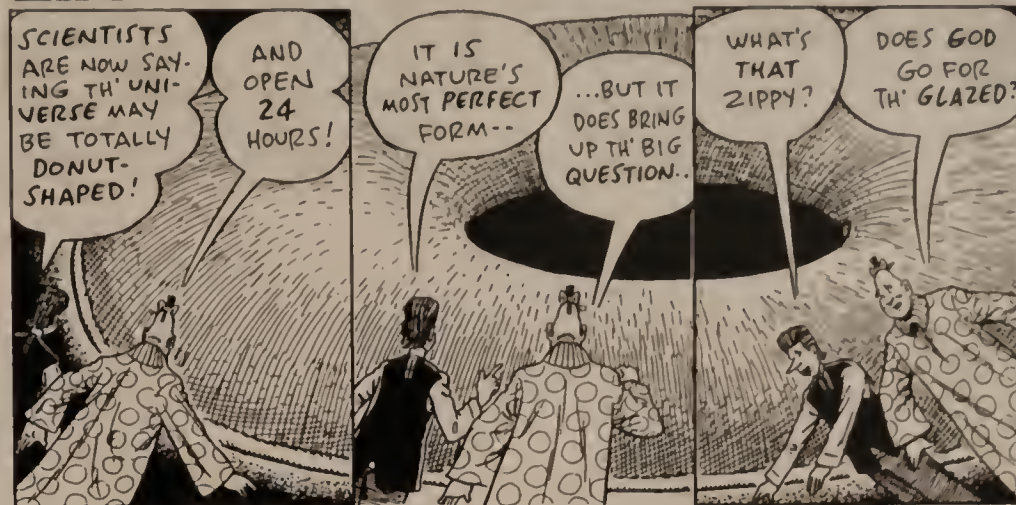
Other attractions that evidence the quirks of our neighborhood, according to the *Guardian*, are Lehr's German Specialties shop at Church and 27th, for the "best headcheese in a can"; Launderland (Church and 24th) for its parking lot; Fat-toush (Church and Clipper) for "the best brunch with no waiting list"; Nifty Vintique (Church and 30th) for its vintage kitchen wares; and the Real Food Company on 24th for its 99-cent bags of "slightly imperfect" fruits and vegetables. Yep, those are a juicy deal.

The other "Best of the Bay" neighborhoods, by the way, were West Portal, the Waterfront, Potrero Hill, and Polk Gulch, in San Francisco, and the entire city of Albany (next to Berkeley) in the East Bay.



SLIP SLIDING AWAY: Local activists sponsored a party on Saturday, July 19, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the cre-

ZIPPY



ation of the Seward Street Slide, a pet project of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, founded in 1881. (See "Slide Park Turns 30" in the July/August *Voice*.)

One of the party's organizers, Richard McRee, was very happy that "over 100 people jammed into the park, ate hot dogs, and had slide races." He applauded the help he had in organizing the affair from B. Shimon-Schwarzschild and Effie Kuriloff, who both attended the opening of the park 30 years ago. The event turned into a big reunion for many past and present residents, some of whom made the trip from out of state. The *San Francisco Independent* was on hand to take photos, although the paper erroneously described the park as being in Noe Valley, feeding a major gripe of many Eureka Valleyites, who feel their Eureka Valley identity has been swallowed up by "The Castro."

The so-called "mini-park" is built on a steep hill and features an exciting two-barreled, 65-foot concrete slide which curves dramatically down the side of the hill. Thrill-seekers and their kids can find it about 30 yards down one-lane, one-way Seward Street, which is off Douglass near 20th Street, just below the Douglass Street Steps.

As neighborhood old-timers know, the EVPA's efforts to create the park were joined by many Noe Valleons, including well-known artist and sculptor Ruth Asawa. At the party, Supervisor Bevan Dufty presented three mayoral proclamations to honor the individuals who had made the park possible: neighborhood activist Effie Kuriloff; B. Shimon-Schwarzschild, who was president of the EVPA in 1973; and Ruth Asawa. Asawa was unable to attend but sent her son Paul Lanier.

The party-goers also made small sculptures out of play dough that will be cast into large concrete tiles. These will be used to complete a 30-foot series of panels of bas relief sculptures, which were installed at the entrance to the park a year after it opened. According to McRee, the tiles should be installed in a few months, along with a bronze memorial plaque.

BUILD ME UP, BUTTERCUP: You saw history if you were looking into the empty and gutted Star Bakery at Church and 29th streets last month while workers were making final repairs, putting in new walls, and finishing the flooring.

According to contractors Sam and John Cutrufelli, the old walls revealed the original building materials used in 1888, when Star Bakery first opened in the neighborhood that was then called St. Paul's Parish. With the walls exposed, you could see the lath and bulging plaster (which was threaded with deer hair), two floors (one hardwood) with wire mesh in between them (probably to keep rats out of the bakery), the gas pipes used for the lighting, and a set of stairs held together by wood wedges instead of nails.

The Cutrufelli brothers say they are pretty much finished with their work. However, they don't know when the building will be occupied. According to property manager Richard Beale, a lease has yet to be finalized, but "we are about 90 percent sure that the new tenant will be a fitness studio."

Beale refused to comment further, so only time will tell if we have gone from

cinnamon buns to buns of steel.

TRADING SPACES: The 2,400-square-foot former Mikeytom Market on Church and Day Street can be yours for \$6,200 a month, says Steven Brown of Better Property Management. There's been a lot of interest, but nobody has signed on the dotted line. "We've had inquiries from a health food store," Brown says, "and a lot of restaurants—French, Italian, Mexican, Vietnamese, and Chinese."

Word is out that the China Pepper restaurant on Church near 29th has closed forever. It had been operated by Joshua Chu and his family since 1983. The building and business went on the market for \$900,000, and just sold for a rumored \$800K.

In the musical stores department, everyone knows by now that Cover to Cover Books has moved into the storefront on Castro near 24th Street formerly occupied by Natural Resources parenting center. The former Cover to Cover space on 24th near Church is for lease, and I haven't heard a peep about what that spot might become.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58



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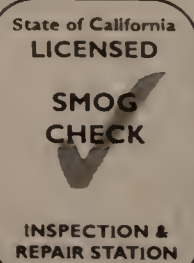
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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

Natural Resources is moving its headquarters up to Diamond just off 24th Street, into the spot vacated by Edward Jones Investments. Edward Jones, in turn, has remodeled and moved into the storefront on 24th Street just below Diamond that was abandoned earlier this year by the Tropical Island aquatic pet store. Tropical Island now sleeps with the fishes, I guess.

Meanwhile, Workwear clothing store on 24th near Starbucks has started sharing its space with another retailer, Red Dot Outlet, which operates its main store on Fourth Street in the SOMA area. The Red Dot Annex moved into Workwear in June and offers women's designer clothes and casual sportswear—names like Puma, Pearl Izumi, and Adidas—at outlet (hopefully discounted) prices. Red Dot occupies the left side of the shop (and left display window), and has a big red dot on all its labels.

Now, everybody stay put.



MARKET QUOTES: A rash of complaints at Bell Market—about the grocery chain's delays in restocking customer favorites and the ubiquity of the "Ralph's" house brand—has prompted bigwigs to visit the local store. And according to Ralph/Cala/Bell spokesperson Terry O'Neil, the store has been "reevaluating the merchandising in all 20 San Francisco stores, and the 24th Street store in particular, to better provide those items requested by the residents of that particular neighborhood."

O'Neil adds that our little Bell Market

is "one of the most successful stores we operate in Northern California, and based on square footage, the most successful store in the chain of about 350 stores we have in the state of California."

Local store manager Enrico Fornesi, who was born and raised in Noe Valley, says he'd been taking note of our special requests and altered buying habits, and sending them up the chain of command. With luck, this should translate into the gradual revamping of product choices on Bell's shelves.



SHORT SHIRTS: Glenn "Gator" Thompson, head chef and creator of Downtown Noe Valley's "California Creole" restaurant Alcatrazes, says he and the Food Network (Channel 35) are talking about doing a cooking show.

Le Zinc bistro, on 24th across the street from Alcatrazes, now invites dog owners to bring their pooches with them to the back patio for their *bon repast* and bone *repast* during the long dog days of Indian summer. Says co-owner Diana Barand, "You can bring your dog through the parking lot next door and come into the patio via the back entrance of the restaurant." Dogs in cafés—that's so French.

Congrats to Incanto, the Italian eatery at Church and Duncan, for getting rave reviews in the *Chronicle* in July.

Yes, that probably was former (1958) San Francisco Giants star first baseman Orlando Cepeda you saw eating in Joe's 24th Street Café (at Vicksburg) in early August. "The Baby Bull," as he was known back then, lists Joe's as his favorite restaurant in San Francisco, in a booklet called *Giants Appetizers*, a collection of recipes culled from players, coaches, and Giants alums. Cepeda also includes the recipe for his favorite dish, *Spicy Pollo y Papas Rellenas*.

Speaking of history, East & West of

Castro Club president Paul Kantus has decreed that the annual Noe Valley History Day will be Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street. (Last year the event was in September.) Kantus invites those who have any kind of Noe Valley memorabilia—photos, newspapers, postcards, or local artifacts—to give him a call at 647-3753.



PARK IT: Downtown Noe Valley merchants were quite happy when the Department of Parking and Traffic finally installed nine new parking meters on 24th Street above Castro in early August.

Carol Yenne, current president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, is proud that "after a three-year battle over parking, and all the hard work, especially that of [former association president] Bob Roddick, finally we have more parking for our customers. What really gets me is that two of the residents who were the most vocal and unyielding throughout the process have long since moved out of the neighborhood."

Yenne also wants to announce that the Merchants' annual hayride is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18. The horse-drawn wagon will once again clip-clop down 24th Street, to the delight of riders of all ages. However, no baby strollers will be permitted on the hayride. I presume stroller valet parking will be available.



HATS OFF to Pali Boucher, who is the founder and head pilot of Rocket Dog Rescue. She travels to animal shelters all over Northern California, picking up canines about to be euthanized. With the help of 20 to 60 volunteers, Boucher gives about 180 dogs a year a new leash on life.

On the first Sunday of every month, she brings a bunch of these rescued dogs to 24th Street and sets up adoption cen-

tral in front of Zephyr Realty. Boucher says that Zephyr has been very supportive of her efforts, even though the crowds get so big they sometimes block the entrance of the real estate emporium.

"Noe Valley is one of our most successful locations," says Boucher, "where a lot of dogs are adopted by the neighbors and we have a lot of people, especially kids, who come out and just hang out with the dogs giving them love and affection."

Boucher says that she often gets calls from animal shelters on the day the dirty deed is scheduled, and has to race to the shelter to rescue a particular dog. "We also take disabled dogs (three-legged, one-eyed, etc.) and try to find them a home."

If you miss her on the first Sunday, you can go over the hill to Eureka Valley on the third Sunday of the month, where Rocket Dog sets up its doggy adoption center on the corner of 18th and Castro.

That's all, you all.



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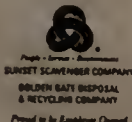
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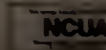
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Elsewhere in the Land of Parrots

❖ FICTION BY JIM PAUL ❖

This month's Last Page features an excerpt from a new novel by former Noe Valley resident Jim Paul: *Elsewhere in the Land of Parrots*, published by Harcourt in July 2003. For 18 years, Paul lived in a three-story apartment building at 1170 Guerrero Street, near 24th Street. During that time, he renovated the building's rooftop laundry hut to use as a writing studio. He also wrote two acclaimed novels: *Catapult: Harry and I Build a Siege Weapon* (1991) and *Medieval in L.A.* (1996), which the *San Francisco Chronicle* described as "more consistently charming and intelligent than most of us manage to be in a day." In 2000, Paul gave into something that had been tugging at him for a long while: a desire to live in the "Big West, amid the mountains and hundred-mile vistas." He moved to a ranch in the Rincon Mountains of Arizona, about an hour from Tucson and six miles up a dirt road (four-wheel-drive required). There he has continued to write, but gone are the days of running up to Bell Market to pick up a quart of milk. Paul sometimes waxes nostalgic about his old abode. "Noe Valley has all the best parts of city life and a small-town feel," he says. "I miss, among other things, Hamano Sushi, Martha and Brothers, even my laundromat, and a good bookstore like Cover to Cover." In fact, Paul hopes to return in the near future to do a reading in Cover to Cover's cozy new location on Castro Street. He would be able to visit his old friends, he says, and look for the birds who partly inspired *Elsewhere in the Land of Parrots*, the wild Brazilian parakeets that nested in the palm trees along Dolores Street. The birds feature prominently in the novel, which is about a timid San Francisco writer whose interest in the feathered fugitives takes him all the way to South America, where he meets a young woman scientist who shares his passion. Noe Valley makes its appearance in the early pages of the book. "It was delicious to reconstruct the old neighborhood," says Paul. "I gave the main character my old apartment."

—Olivia Boler

AUTHOR JIM PAUL
PHOTO BY JEFF SMITH

Jim Paul introduces this excerpt from his novel *Elsewhere in the Land of Parrots* (Harcourt, 2003):

Noe Valley resident David Huntington is a reclusive poet known for writing verse as meaningless as he can make it. For years, David has lived fearfully, sleeping and working with earplugs and rarely going outside. Each day he has drawn his life more closely around him. When his pet parrot, an unwanted gift from his father, drives away the first woman he's met in months, David throws the bird out the window. Then, out of guilt, he follows it out into the world. His search takes him first to the Mission Library and then up 24th Street, where he makes a surprising discovery.



On his next trip to the library, David plunged into some particularly poignant reading on extinct parrots. There had once existed on the island of Guadaloupe in the Lesser Antilles a magnificent, large, long-tailed purple parrot, called in retrospect *Anodorhynchus purpurascens*. Ornithologists assumed that this bird had belonged to the same genus as the largest and most impressive parrots on the South American continent: the Hyacinth Macaw, which had as its dominant color a rich cobalt blue, and the Lear's Macaw, an aquamarine variation.

David's awakening imagination stirred at the thought of this lost creature, sighted officially only once, by a European sailor who had been so astonished by the beauty of this bird that he had written something down. David could picture the scene: the anodorhynchus, big and imposing, its long tail streaming, its feathers the violet blue of dawn, flying over this open-mouthed sailor and into extinction. The early European explorers of the Caribbean often killed, cooked, and ate macaws, and this was considered the main reason for the bird's demise. Somebody had turned it into food.

David left the library that day acutely alert to the physical space of the city, as if he too might be about to glimpse something extraordinary and gorgeous and about to be gone forever. On the street, he had an almost physical impression of the hills insisting that the streets rise and fall over them in just that way. He noticed the water beyond them and he no-

ticed the air, the high bright space above everything, which previous to this had been to him—what?—a blank, a negative, a not, and now was this thick fluid medium, on which the seagulls could linger.

The next day he discovered the Carolina Parakeet, the only parrot native to the United States. These yellow-headed birds had ranged from Florida to Michigan in the Colonial Period. Lewis and Clark had noticed them on a tributary of the Kansas River. They lived in large flocks, of three hundred birds sometimes, and their seemingly tropical appearance had startled people in Conestoga wagons. One report described a flock of Carolina Parakeets in a bayou in southern Louisiana in the summer of 1895. In the light of dawn, they had raised a clamor in a stand of black mulberries.

In his dusty carrel in the library, David felt moved by the description of these birds. Like his own lost parrot, they were conures, their Latin name *Conuropsis carolinensis*. They'd been too smart for their own good, seeking out the most delicious fruits—those most highly prized by that other too-smart-for-its-own-good species, human beings, who had rid the planet of this competitor. Farmers with firearms had killed great numbers of the birds in the fields. The birds had no fear of guns and so were slaughtered by the hundreds, "eight, ten, twenty at a shot," wrote James J. Audubon, who shot dozens of them himself, collecting a bushel basket of dead parakeets for his sketches.

The gregarious nature of these birds, noted Audubon, had contributed to their extinction as a species. They could not leave their wounded companions behind. As the farmers shot at them, the living birds, "as if conscious of the deaths of their companions," swept over the bodies, screaming as loud as ever, until so few remained alive that the farmer didn't consider it worth his while to spend more of his ammunition. The final representative of the species, the last Carolina Parakeet, named Uncas after James Fenimore Cooper's Indian in *The Last of the Mohicans*, died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1918.

David had to pause there, astonished to find his sight smeared with tears. David, who had not really even looked at a bird until the parrot in his apartment had driven his call into David's consciousness, who had not wept a single tear during his divorce, David cried in his alcove of the library, baffled even as his crying shook him, but giving in and blubbering into his hands over the desk. For the bitter fate of these long dead birds? Yes, partly, but it was mostly for the species' overwhelming wish to live, that screeching, stubborn attachment that had proven so fatal, and for this colorful vital possibility lost to the world, gone out the window.

He left the library feeling shaken, wondering if it wasn't a bit crazy, having reached such heights from reading odd and ancient bird lore. He walked up 24th Street, heading for home. But he could not manage to direct himself into his building and into the solitude of his apartment and so decided to continue up the hill and find something for dinner in Noe Valley. The sun was setting behind Twin Peaks as he walked west up the silhouetted hill toward the conflagration.

And then as if he had readied himself for a vision in the ancient fashion, David heard an odd yet familiar sound, a steely twittering. It came from the crown of a palm tree in the middle of the traffic island on Dolores Street, and it sounded like a gang of Little Wittgensteins. He couldn't see anything in the tree, though he walked around it, peering upwards. Whatever they were, they were well hidden in the fronds, and they were celebrating. This scissoring sound was a jangle of angry joy. David listened for a while, until he was sure. Then he went on up the street, passing the café where he had his coffee in the morning, and there at the same sidewalk table was the same birdlike, behatted man who had told him about mourning doves. And again the guy seemed to know what David was thinking.

"Oh, it's you," he said. "Have another bird you'd like identified?"

"I do, yes," said David. He explained that he was just on the corner and had heard what sounded like parrots in a palm tree.

"They are parrots," the man said. "Parakeets, actually, canary-winged parakeets. Escaped cage birds from Brazil. They come to my yard and try to crack the walnuts."

So this was the joy he had heard in the palm trees—the exultation of successful escapees. The cry of these cocky birds had been as different from "Polly-wanna-cracker" as possible. It had been more like "Fuck-you-we-got-out."

"Yeah, weird, huh?" said the guy. "They live off exotic fruits, you know, Japanese plums and the like."

"If you want to see real parrots, though," he went on, "there are real parrots living downtown. Around Telegraph Hill. A flock of about 40. Also escaped cage birds. They're all one species, just like the canary-wings. But bigger birds. Conures, actually. Somehow they manage to find each other."

Jim Paul is a poet, translator, and author of four books. He has won both Guggenheim and Wallace Stegner writing fellowships and served on the faculty at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in Vermont. His new novel will be available at Cover to Cover Booksellers and Phoenix Books and Records.